

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

December 7, 2016

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.

FOIPA Request No.: 1362207-000 Subject: LINKLETTER, ARTHUR GORDON

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 125 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that FBI files 15-7223 (1/5/1993); 26-47877 (12/1/1993); 15-3920 (10/10/1992); 95-HQ-62416 (8/17/1993); and 87-95585 (6/28/1990), which may or may not be responsive to your FOIA request, have been destroyed. The records-destruction practices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are conducted in full compliance with Title 44, United States Code, Chapter 33 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter 12, subpart 1228.

For your additional information, a record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information Act request has been transferred to the National Archives. You may desire to direct a request to the National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference file numbers 94-57196, 31-173141, and 100-HQ-0-SEC 808.

Additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. <u>See</u> 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy Section Chief,

Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence:
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process:
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

SAC, Los Angelos (9-1618) March 10, 1954 Director, FBI (9-25669)-/ RECORDED - 93 UNSUE; FX. - 104 ART LICKLETTER - VICTIR and order envelope and note, designated in the laboratory report as He latent impressions of value developed on 35 or çó which are enclosed. -aboratory report separate. W-New York a soffer of hugues Nichols RG#:Pt Clegg. 9-2500 Harbo Rosen Tracy. MAILED 4 Cicarty Moder MAR 1 0 1954 COMM - FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAT NITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 3-4-54 vws Laboratory Work Sheet Recorded 3-9-5h 9:00 AM he

LAB FITE

LATENT

Ro:

UNSUB

ART LINKLETTER - VIOTIM

EXTORTION

File # 9-25669 / Lab. # D-180956 AX

9-25669-1

Examination requested by:

SAC, LA (9-1618)

Date of reference communication:

2-26-54

Date received:

3-3-54

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

.p.o .b7

Specimens submitted for examination

- Envelope bearing hp address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S. TELEVION HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 16 1954. 9-PM."
- Q6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NEST RAT."

The latents of value 95 & 96 returned hat report sep Sid

9 -25669-

Office Memorandum • United States Government

MA

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/26/54

24547

FROM

SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

SUBJECT:

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - Victim

EXTORTION

Remytel 2/25/54 and mylet same date.

There is enclosed herewith for the Bureau the original and one photostatic copy of an additional letter received by victim which was postmarked February 16, 1954, at Jamaica, New York. It is noted this letter was addressed to ART LINKLETTER, CBS Television, Hollywood California. The contents of the letter consists of cutouts from newspapers attached with scotchtape to accounting type paper and states, "This is it. Your last chance. Your children are nest. Rat".

It is requested that the same examination afforded the letters previously furnished the Eureau be afforded this letter.

Victim's secretary, advised that the above letter was discovered today, February 26, 1954, among fan mail which was received at victim's office from CES Television Studio, Hollywood, California. is causing a check to be made of all fan mail which has not previously been screened for any additional letters from Unsub to victim.

advised she showed the enclosed letter to victim this date and he does not feel concerned about the matter. Attempts have been made to interview victim; however, due to his extremely busy schedule, he has not been available for interview up to this time. Victim's secretary is attempting to arrange for an interview with victim concerning this matter on Monday, March 1, 1954.

The Bureau will be kept advised of any additional developments.

One photostatic copy of the afore-mentioned letter is being forwarded herewith to the New York Division.

AIR MAIL - REG.

Encl.

GDI:/pms

cc: New York (AM) (Encl.)

RECORDED-34

MAP 1 1954

- 3 76 6 9 W

MAR 1/1 1954 INDEX AB FILE b6 b7С SAC, Los Angeles

March 10, 1954

Director, FBI (9-25669) - 2 RECURDED - 93

-y - 10¹⁴

UNSUB; ART LINKLETT R - VICTIM EXTORTION

further reurlet February 25, 1954, submitting two envelopes and accompanying notes, designated in the laboratory report as Ol through O4, for examination.

hour latent fingerprints of value developed on Q3 and Q4. Evidence is enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

Enclosines (4)
CC-lew-York

9 -25669-

MAR 1 0 1954 COMM-FBI

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 3-2-54

Laboratory Work Sheet Recorded 3-4-54 4:00 PM bc

Lab. File

UMSUB: Re: ART LINKLETTER -VICTIM

File # 9-25669

EXPORTION

D-180737 AX

9-25669- 2

Examination requested by:

SAC, los Angeles (9-Hen)

Lot. 2-25-54

Date of reference communication:

Date received:

3-1-50

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6 b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

- 01 Eurolope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "AUT LINKLETTER C-9.6. TELEVISION HOLLY CALLY." postunithed "JAMALCA, U. A. FEB 1954."
- Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning 35 "We want you...." anding on roverse side "you Tramp."
- 3 Envelope bearing the band printed address "AST -LIMILITIES C. 3.2. THIPVERSON. WILLY FEDD CALIFFRINA" postnerked "JAMAICA, H.Y. FEB 10 1954 6:30 HA
- Oh Accompanying note made of letters and words out from newspaper beginning "Est This It's ending "MANNIED."

Q3 & 4 & photo after colorence 3 5 5 35 I lab fast noted under scotch Tog 2 laily 5 der on Q4 Evid returned - Labrup sep

Office Memorandum • United States Government

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: February 25, 1954

SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-NEW)

SUBJECT:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM EXTORTION

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Remytel February 25, 1954.

There is submitted as an enclosure hereto the original and one photostatic copy of two extortion letters received by victim. It is noted one letter is postmarked February 1, 1954, and the other, February 10, 1954, both Jamaica, New York.

The laboratory is requested to examine these extortion letters for fingerprints. It is likewise requested that the handwriting on the envelopes be searched through the anonymous letter file for a possible identification.

The victim, ART LINKLETTER, is a prominent television and radio personality.

The letters were forwarded to the Los Angeles by LINKLETTER's secretary, by letter dated February She was telephonically contacted upon receipt of the letters and advised that she had shown the letters to Mr. LINKLETTER, and he could furnish no information concerning the identity of the subject. According to has no acquaintances in Jamaica, New York. She advised that LINKLETTER was Master of Ceremonies at a Pillsbury "baking contest" in New York City on December 15, 1953, and has not been in New York since that date. LINKLETTER was also M.C. of a Press Party for President Eisenhower in Washington, D. C., on February 6, 1954.

explained that LINKLETTER receives a tremendous amount of fan mail and some of it is not handled for three or four weeks after receipt. She advised she would

AIR MAIL REGISTERED

Encls.

GDH: MRB cc: NEW YORK (Encls.) (Air Mail)

COPIES DESTROYED

301 JUL 21 1965

RECORDED-20

LA 9-NEW

cause an immediate search to be made of all fan mail on hand to determine if any additional letters of a similar nature have been received.

further advised that LINKLETTER is the father of three daughters and two sons, aged from five to seventeen.

No personal contact has been had with LINKLETTER as yet, but arrangements will be made to interview him as soon as possible.

The New York Division is being furnished one photostatic copy of each of the letters received by the victim. New York is requested to conduct any logical investigation possible at Jamaica, New York, to determine the identity of the unknown subject.

Assistant United States Attorney HOWARD R. HARRIS, Los Angeles, was contacted and advised of this matter. He stated that the letters undoubtedly constitute a violation of the Extortion Statute and suggested that investigation be made.

Homicide Division, Los Angeles
Police Department, was advised of the receipt of the aforementioned
letters by the victim. He stated that no information has
previously come to the attention the Los Angeles Police Department regarding this matter, but he would notify this office
immediately if they receive any information of interest.

The Bureau will be kept advised of all pertinent developments.

9-2-2-69-

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF HIVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 25 1954

TELETYPE

AB

Mr. Tolsor Mr. Ladd

ir. Nichota

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Harle

Mr. Tra Mr. Me

Mr. West of Tele. Heart

Mr. II i a Miss Gar ly.

FBI, LOS ANGELES

2-25-54

8-38 PM

NDB

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

UNSUB., ART LINKLETTER, VICTIM. VICTIM IS NATIONALLY KNOWN TV AND RADIO

STAR. VICTIM RECEIVED TWO LETTERS POSTMARKED JAMICA, NEW YORK, FEB.

GNE LAST AND FEB. TEN LAST. FIRST LETTER, COMPOSED OF NEWSPAPER

CUTCUTS PASTED WITH SCOTCHTAPE TO BLACK PAPER, STATES QUOTE WE WANT

YOU TO GET TOGETHER ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHERE

YOU HAVE TO SEND IT. DONT CALL THE POLICE OR YOUR QUOTE LITTLE GIRL

UNQUOTE WILL NOT HAVE THEIR LAST TEN DAYS, YOU TRAMP UNQUOTE. SECOND

LETTER, COMPOSED OF NEWSPAPER CUTOUTS PASTED WITH SCOTCHTAPE TO PLAIN

WHITE PAPER, STATED QUOTE THIS ITS YOUR FINAL WARNING UNQUOTE. VICTIM

IS FATHER OF THREE GIRLS AND TWO BOYS. VICTIM CAN FURNISH NO INFO

CONCERNING IDENTITY OF SUBJ. VICTIM WAS EMCEE OF PILLSBURY BAKING

CONTEST IN NYC DEC. FIFTEEN LAST AND HAS NOT BEEN IN NYC SINCE THEN.

VICTIM WAS ALSO EMCEE AT PRESS PARTY FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT

WASHINGTON, D C, FEB. SIX LAST. LAPD ADVISED. FACTS PRESENTED USA,

LA, WHO REQUESTED INVESTIGATION. EXTORTION LETTERS BEING FORWARDED

MALONE

END ACK PLS

BY AIR MAIL TODAY.

CO MR. ROSETS
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Mr. Rogen

9-25669-3

MARCH 2, 1954 AIRTEL SAC, LOS ANCELES AIR MAIL

UNSUE., ART LINKEETTER, VICTIM, EXTORTION. REURTEL
PEBRUARY 24, 1954. AFFORD MATTER CUNTINUOUS INVESTI ATIVE
ATTENTION. KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

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EHH: js

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9 -2566**9-**

REPORT



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON D. C.

March 5, 1954

SAC, Los Angeles

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM FXTORTION

YOUR FILE NO.

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI FILE NO.

9-new 9-25669

LAB. NO.

D-180787 AX-

Examination requested by:

Los An eles

Reference:

Letter 2/25/54

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprent -25669-

Specimens:

Lade

Nichua Cless -

Fitter 1'8'

Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil Ql and red ink "% ART LINKLETTER C-B.S. TELEVISION HOLLY CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, E.Y. F.B. 1954."

Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from 02 nowspaper beginning "We want you ... " ending on reverse

side "you Tramp."

Envelope bearing the hand printed address "% ART -03 LINKLETTERS C. B. S. TELEVISION. HOLLY HOOD CALIFORNIA" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954 6:30 PM."
Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from

त्र newspaper boginning "Rat This It's ... " onding "WARNING."

Recallts of emminetion:

MAR 8: 1954 9 - 7 - 7 - 4

Specimens (1 through Oh were searched through the appropriate sections of the Ammayrous Alethen File without effecting an identification. A photographic copy of these specimens will be added to the file for flither reference.

The physical characteristics of specimens Ol through O4 were taken and are being meintained in the Laboratory for future reference.

Specimens Ol through Qh will be chemically treated for the Addevelopment of latent fingerprints and you will receive a separate be returned to your office with copies of that report. Wills Wir.

TO MY WHAT MALE MANY

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON D. C.

24545

To: SAC, Los Angeles

March 9, 1954

Re:

UNSUB ART LINKLETIER - VICTIM EXTORTION

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO.

9-1618 9-25669

LAB. NO.

D-180956 AX

Examination requested by:

Addresses

Reference:

Letter dated 2-26-54

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Specimens:

©5 Envelope bearing hand printed address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S. TELEVION HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 16 1954 9-PM."

Q6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NEST RAT."

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photostats of Q5 and Q6.

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the hand printing appearing on the envelope, Q5, was prepared by the individual who prepared the hand printing appearing on the envelopes, Q1 and Q3, previously submitted with your letter of February 25, 1954.

The envelope and paper used for Q5 and Q6 is different from the onvelopes and papers used for Q1 thusbush Q1. previously submitted with your letter of February 25, 1954.

It contains no watermark. 66 is a portion of a lined ledger about which now measures approximately 6 by 12 inches. It contains a special watermark "Riverside Bond Nade in U.S.A." Paper bearing this watermark

2MT

JCC: VWS MILES OF

MAR 9 1954

MARI 1 0 1954

30 continued next page

a o mad 1 c 10 e 1

is manufactured by the Riverside Paper Corporation, Appleton, Wisconsin. The message appearing on Q6 appears to have been prepared by cutting out portions of a newspaper and affixing them to the sheet of paper with a transparent cellophane tape.

Specimens Q5 and Q6 will be chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints and a separate report will be submitted on this phase of the examination.

Specimens Q5 and Q6 will be returned to your office with the latent fingerprint report.

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

UNKNOWN SUBJECT: ARTCLINKLETTER, VICTIM; EXTORTION

Remylet 2/25/54.

Contact has been maintained with the victim's secretary, She advised on 3/3/54 that no additional threatening letters have been discovered in the victim's fan mail and for this reason "They are not getting exercised shout the matter". again advised that the victim can furnish no information regarding the identity of the unknown suspect. | stated that the victim has been unusually busy the past week and for this reason she has not arranged an appointment for Agents to personally discuss the matter with him.

was again advised that Agents of this office are available to interview Mr. LINKLETTER about the matter at his convenience. She stated that if Mr. LINKLETTER desired to arrange an interview with Agents to discuss the matter she would contact this office and make arrangements for such interview. | further stated that they are continuing to search LINKLETTER's fan mail for any additional letters sent to him by the unknown subject. She will immediately notify this office if any additional letters are uncovered.

In view of the close contact being maintained with ARP LINKLETTER's secretary and her insistence that LINK-LETTER can furnish no information con cerning this matter, no further effort will be made to personally interview the victim unless additional developments warrant such action.

GDH:ELM

9 -25669-

RECORDED-33

ROERAL BUREAU OF INESTUGIATION

THIS CASE CHIBIRATEDAY	THE A PROPERTY OF			2. 一种原则
REPORT MADE AT	MADE MAIN	2/25,26:37	THE THE WALL	
LOG ANGELES	14/2/54	16,25/5	و لما زخ	(A) , ms
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Day HOWN STEMBERT;	ART LINKLETTER	- VICTIM		
SYNOFSAS OF PACTO				
anonymous at Jamaica, \$1,000 under "This its y Your last of cludes that ceives larg identity of expresses l	threatonical let New York. Let a threat of har our final warni hande. Your che handwriting on the volume of fand subject. Vict ack of concernartment notified	tters postmark ter of 2/3/bl m to victim's ng." Letter of ildren are nes all 3 envelop mail and can im believed le for safety of	dymanded victim child. letter of 2/16/5h, stat of. Nat." FEI oes is promiced furnish no info etters are work	of 2/10/51, stated ed number is it. Laborate re- creation regarding
the Los Ang	TETTER, a well-	letters which	nd television in	secretary ersonality, furnished had been received in
Television,	w York. The er Holly, Calif."	velope was add The reverse	ressed "% ART I side of the env	relope has the
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FORWARDED:) O IN	CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN	THESE SPACES
	5	/-	25661-	/ RECORDED-67
COPIES OF	THIS REPORT			EX-129
2 Bureau (9 1 USA, Los 2 New York	Angeles	0 kg	669	7 123
2 Los Ange.	les (9-1618)	TO VI		

envelope consisted of newspaper cut-outs pasted with scotch tape to a piece of black paper. The letter states as follows:

"We want you to get together \$1,000. We will let you know where you have to send it. Don't call the police or your 'little girl' will not have that last 10 days. You Tramp."

The other letter furnished by was contained in an envelope addressed in hand printing in pencil to "% ART LINKLETTERS, CBS Television, Hollywood, Calif.," and postmarked February 10, 6:30 p.m., Jamaica, New York. The contents of the envelope consisted of a piece of plain white paper on which there was attached, with scotch tape, newspaper cut-outs stating as follows:

b7C

"Rat, this it's your final warning."

At the request of the reporting Agent, had an employee in Mr. LINKLETTER's office make a search through the available fan mail that had not been opened, to determine if any additional letters had been addressed to him which contained a threat. On March 1, 1954, furnished an additional letter which had been located in the victim's fan mail. She likewise furnished this letter and it is noted that the envelope is also hand printed in pencil and postmarked February 16, 1954, at Jamaica, New York. The contents of this letter consisted of newspaper cut-outs rested by scotch tape to a piece of plain white paper to read as follows:

"This is it. Your last chance. Your children are nest, rat."

On March 9, 1954, the FBI Laboratory advised (Lab file D-180956AX) that it was concluded that the hand printing appearing on the envelope postmarked February 16, 1954, was prepared by the same individual who prepared the hand printing appearing on the envelopes of the other two letters received by victim. The laboratory further advised that the letters received by victim had been searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification.

On March 10, 1954, the laboratory advised that four latent fingerprints of value were developed on the first two letters mentioned above as received by victim. On the same date the laboratory also advised that no latent impressions of value were developed on the last letter received by victim which was postmarked February 16, 1954.

		5	ecretar	y to A	RT LIM	CLETTER,	and	who:	is empl	Loynd
by the Jol	nn Guedels	Agency,	8321 Be	verly	Bouleva	rd, Los	Ange	eles,	Cali-	
	elephonica					on Feb				
that the	twó letter	s which s	he had	just s	ent to	the Los	Ange	eles	Office	

were apparently letters received as regular fan mail by the CBS Studio. She stated that Mr. LINKLETTER receives a tremendous amount of fan mail and that the fan mail is sometimes not handled for three or four weeks after receipt. She stated that upon discovery of the first two threatening letters quoted above she showed them to Mr. LINKLETTER. She stated in LINKLETTER advised her he has no acquaintances in Jamaica, Long Island, New York, and he has no idea who the author of the letters could be. She stated that the only activity which Mr. LINKLETTER had had around New York was on December 15, 1953, when he was Master of Ceremonies at the Pillsbury baking contest in New York City. She stated he had not been in New York since that date. She further stated that LINKLETTER was Master of Ceremonies at a press party for President EISENHOWER on February 6, 1954, and this was his last occasion to be in the East.

Contact was maintained with by both SA and the reporting Agent, and she advised on March 3, 1954, and March 11 and 16, 1954, that victim had received no additional threatening letters, and for this reason victim is not concerned about the matter and feels that the writer of the letters is apparently a "crank."
The reporting Agent and SA made several attempts to arrange an appointment to interview victim LINKLETTER about the matter, but advised he was extremely busy in that he followed a "tight" schedule due to his radio and television activities. Upon receiving no additional letters advised that Mr. LINKLETTER did not feel the matter should receive any additional attention at this time.
It is noted that ART LINKLETTER has a nationally televised show known as "Art Linkletter's House Party," which is televised over the Columbia Broadcasting System.
On February 25, 1954, Mr. HOWARD R. HARRIS, Assistant United States Attorney, was advised of the threatening letters received by victim, whereupon he stated that there was no doubt the letters constituted a violation of the Extortion Statute.
On February 25, 1954, of the Homicide Division, Los Angeles Police Department, was telephonically advised of the receipt of the first two extortion letters by victim. He advised that no previous information concerning this matter had come to the Los Angeles Police Department's attention and advised the Los Angeles Office would be immediately contacted in the event any further information was received.
The following description of victim was obtained by SA from victim's secretary:

9 -25669-

6 7

Name: Age: Height: Weight: Sex:

Race:

Nationality: Hair: Eyes:

Occupation: Marital Status:

Wife: Children:

Residence: Office Address: ART LINKLETTER

611"

190 lbs. Male

White American Sandy

Blue Radio and television

Married

JACK, 16 years

ROBERT, 9 years

DIANE, 5 years
219 South Mapleton Drive, Los Angeles
8321 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles,
telephone York 6291

=25669

IA 9-1618

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

NEW YORK

At Jamaica, New York

Will conduct investigation through any logical sources available to determine the identity of the subject.

LOS ANGELES

At Los Angeles, California

Will follow and report results of any further investigation.

REFERENCES

Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 2/25/54.

Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 2/26/54.

Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 2/26/54.

Bureau air-tel to Los Angeles, 3/2/54.

Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 3/7/54.

Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 3/10/54.

FBI Laboratory reports to Los Angeles, 3/5/54 and 3/9/54.

9-25669-7

REPORT of the



2454

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON B. C.

9-25-69-8

30RDED-ME, New York

April 15, 1994

ART LINKLETTER VIKEX John Files No. 9 at 1995

FRI FILE NO. 9-1995

FRI FILE NO. 9-25669

LAB. NO. D-182582 AX

Exemination requested by: NOW YORK

Raference:

Letter 3/30/54

Examination requested:

Document

Specimens

Beimont Clegg Glavin Harbo Roses Tracy Geany

Winterroad ---

Kl - Klo30 1030 specimens taken from 1030 students attending Thomas A. Edison Vocational School and Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School.

Results of examination:

The hand printing appearing on the envolopes Q1. Q3 and Q5 previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of 2/25/54 was compared with specimens K1 through K1030 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any further known hand-writing specimens from any of the individuals represented in K1 through K1030.

Specimens Kl through K1030 will be retained in the Laboratory for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your office in that time those known hand printing specimens will be destroyed.

l - Los Angeles (9-1618)

53 APR 23

dec: VPP 21/1

MAILED 3 1954R1 5 1954



CATALIANO FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • United States Government

TO

Director, FBI (9-25669)

DATE: 3/30/54

FROM

ATT: FBI Laboratory

SAC, New York (9-1995)

24543

SUBJECT

UNSUB;

ART'LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

7 42582.

For the information of the Laboratory and the Los Angeles Office, it has been ascertained that the threatening letters in this case were cleared through the main Jamaica Post Office, 88-40 164th Street, Jamaica, LI, NY.

This Post Office covers a densely populated area of approximately 12 square miles, and the Jamaica Post Office handles more than 1000 collection boxes with all mail funneled through the main Post Office. As a consequence, it is not possible to trace these letters to any particular locality or neighborhood by means of the postmark.

It is believed, however, that the following clues / in these letters tend to show that the letters may have been prepared by high school or junior high school students:

The letters were all postmarked after school hours; in two instances the stamps were placed in the wrong corner; in all three letters the writer used hand-printed Upper Case letters indicating the possibility that the writer had taken or was taking a school course such as Art in which lettering is used.

In view of the above, arrangements were made through various principals and Art Course instructors in five secondary schools in the area covered by the Jamaica Post Office to obtain hand-printed specimens of the students printing in Upper Case letters.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are approximately 1000 specimen of hand-printing obtained from students attending the Thomas A. Edison Vocational School for Boys, also known as PS #49 at 92-23 170th Street, Jamaica, LI.

RECORDED-107

Encs. (1,181)

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

MULL LAW FILES

EES: PHA

Lahyer 4119154

O APR 1 1954

Letter to Director NY 9-1995

Also enclosed are 30 specimen obtained from students taking the Commercial Art Course at the Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School, 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, LI, NY.

The above specimen were obtained as a result of cooperation with local school authorities.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the unidentified hand-printing on the envelopes in this case with the known specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification.

The samples submitted are not to be returned and may be destroyed after they have served their purpose.

9-25669-8

10 -2 - 6 bq -

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON D. C.

SAC, New York

9-25669-9

April 16, 1954

WE THOOTH

UNSUE.; ART LINKLETTER --VICTIM ENTONTION John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO.

9-1995

LAB. NO.

D-182792 AX

Examination requested by:

New York

2 eference:

Letter 4/5/54

Examination requested:

Document

Specimens:

K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School, Long Island, New York.

Results of Exemination:

The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and Q5, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known hand printing specimens designated above as K1031 through K2712 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which suggests the desirability of obtaining any additional known hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented in the above known specimens 110,1 through K2712.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Laboratory for thirty days Late Laboratory for thirty days and Late Laboratory for Late Lab

4 Los Angeles (9-1618)

Wane JCC: PAL Co

Cless-

5 APR 26 1954

MAILED 7
APR 1 6 1954
COMM. FBI

9 203/ 2100 SCARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 4/5/54

YIL GTOOL

ATT: FBI Laboratory

EXOM :

SAC, New York (9-1995)

SUBJECT:

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Re NY letter to Bureau, 3/30/54.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 1682 specimens of hand-printing obtained from students of the Jamaica Long Island High School.

For the information of the Los Angeles Office, these specimens are limited to students taking the Art and Mechanical Drawing courses. The Jamaica High School has a total enrollment of 5000 and is in approximately the same general area as the main Jamaica Post Office through which the threatening letters in this case were funneled.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the handprinting on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelopes previously submitted on this case.

The specimens are not to be returned and may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

EXP.PROC.

Encs. (1682)

9 -25668-

9

1 - Los Angeles

EES:PHA

11-16-54

CJC : ON 4

ANT CHORDERS IN

APR 6 1956

APR 0

8E 4

REPORT of the

LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON D. C.

RECORDED - 90
SAC, 866 YMFk 9 - 25 66 9 - April 16, 1954

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - Victim Extortion

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-182942 AX

Examination requested by: New York

Seference:

Letter 4/7/54

Examination requested:

Document

Specimens:

Belgon

K2713 - K3516 Known specimens obtained from 804 students of Shimer Junior High School.

Results of examination:

The questioner hand printing appearing on the envelopes 1, 03 and 05, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 195h, was compared with the known hand printing specimens designated above as K2713 through K3516 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented in the known specimens K2713 through K3516.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Leboratory for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your office will be destroyed at that time.

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

5724V

APR 1 6 1954

X g

3 APR 26 1954

Office Memorandum • United States Government

Director, FBI

ATT: FBI Laboratory SAC, New York (9-1995)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Re NY letter to Bureau, 3/30/54.

DATE: 4/7/54

24541

132943

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 804 specimens of handprinting obtained from the Shimer Junior High School, 142nd Street and Linden Boulevard, Queens, NY. These specimens were obtained through the cooperation of the Principal. The Shimer Junior High School is in the same general area as the main Jamaica Post Office through which the threatening letters in this case were funneled.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the handprinting on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelopes previously submitted in this case.

The specimens are not to be returned and may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

Encs. 804

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

Office Memorandum • United States Government

DATE: 1/19/54

70

Director, FBI (9-25669)

(ATT: FBI Laboratory)
SAC, New York (9-1995)

SUBJECT:

UNSUB: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Re. NY letters to Bureau, 3/30/54, 4/5/54 and 4/7/54.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 1,263 specimens of handprinting obtained of students taking art courses I and II at the Anirew Jackson High School, 207-01 lléth Avenue, St. Albans, NY, which is covered by the main Jamaica Post Office. These specimens were obtained through the cooperation of the art instructor.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the handprinting on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelope previously submitted in this case.

In the event no identification is effected the specimens may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

Encl. 1,263

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

EX-1159 -25669- 11

RECORDED - 40

y.

12 APR 21 1954

5/5/54

INDEX LABITILES

EES: KAK

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON D. C.

Te SAG, New York

May 4, 1954

DECODED - 40 9- 256 69-11

UNSUB.; ART LINKLETTER - Victim Extortion

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO.

9**-**1995 9**-**25669

LAB. NO.

D-183597 AX

Examination requested by:

New York

Zeference:

Letter 4/19/54

Examination requested:

Document

Specimens:

K3517-4779 Known writing taken from 1263 students of Andrew Jackson High School.

Results of examination:

The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and Q5 previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known hand printing specimens designated above as K3517 through K4779 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented in K3517 through K4779.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Laboratory for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your office will be destroyed at that time.

*** 1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

-1618) -25669-

1

()20 / C

3 MAY 1 1954 16 MAY 4 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
This case originated at IOS ANGELES

MADE B/8: 11/2.	ORT MADE BY
	DMUND E. SENESAC jma
T.TLE CHA	ARACTER OF CASE
UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ART LINKLETTER ↔ VICTIM EX	XTORTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The 3 extortion letters in this case cleared through the main Jamaica, L.I. Post Office, 88-40 164th St., Jamaica, L.I., N.Y., which covers densely populated area. Inasmuch as certain characteristics in threatening letters indicated they may have been prepared by a high school or junior high school student, specimens of known handprinting of 4,779 students in 5 secondary schools covered by Jamaica Post Office were obtained for comparison. No identification effected as result of this examination.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

At Jamaica, Long Island, New York

T-1, of known reliability, who is in a position to identify mail which clears through the main Jamaica, Long Island Post Office at 88-40 164th Street, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, advised that the post-marks on the three envelopes of the letters mailed to ART LINKLETTER show that they were processed through the Jamaica Post Office. T-1 stated, however, that their Jamaica Post Office covers an area of approximately twelve square miles. This area is densely populated and the Jamaica Post Office handles more than 1,000 collection boxes with all the mail funneled

COPIES DESTROYED

301 JUL 21 1965

SPECIAL AGENT DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

2. - Bureau (9-25669)
3 - Los Angeles (9-1618)
(1 - USA, Los Angeles)

1 - New York (9-1996)

EX-123

NY 9-1995

through the main post office. As a consequence, it is not possible to trace these letters to any particular locality or neighborhood by means of the postmarks.

Arrangements were made through T-1 to have a post office notice issued to the twenty post office sub-stations which bring mail to the main post office to be alert for any communication goint to a television entertainer on CBS Television in Hollywood, California. The victim's name was not used. This resulted negatively.

A close examination of the threatening letters in this case showed that they were postmarked after school hours; in two instances the stamps were placed in the wrong corner; on all three envelopes the writer used handprinted Upper Case letters, indicating the possibility that the writer had taken or was taking a school course such as art or mechanical drawing in which lettering is used; the language and spelling of the actual contents of the threatening letters indicated immaturity; it is noted that although a sum of money was demanded, no actual place was ever indicated as to where the money should be sent.

As a result of the above noted characteristics in the threatening letters and the nature of the ART LINKLETTER program. it is believed that the possibility existed that the threatening letters may have been prepared by a high school or a junior high school student in the Jamaica, Long Island area.

In view of the above, arrangements were made through various principals and art instructors in five secondary schools in the area covered by the Jamaica, Long Island Post Office to obtain handprinted specimens of the students handprinting in Upper Case lettering.

The breakdown of the specimens obtained of the students from the different schools is as follows:

- Through 1. Art Department, Jamaica High School, 167-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 1,682 students in art courses.
- 2. Thomas A. Edison Through \ Vocational School for Boys (Public School 49), 92-23 170th Street, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from approximately 1,000 students, covering full enroll-2566**9** 5

NY 9-1995

- 3. Through Woodrow Wilson High School, 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 30 students in art classes.
 - High School, (Public School 142) 142nd Street and Linden Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 804 students covering full enrollment.
 - 5. Through Art Department,
 Andrew Jackson High School, 207-01 116th Avenue, St.
 Albans, Long Island, New York, specimens from 1,263
 students enrolled in art courses I and II.

The total amount of specimens obtained was 4,779.

All of the known specimens obtained from the 4,779 students of the five secondary schools listed above were forwarded to the Bureau Laboratory for comparison with the questioned handprinting on the envelopes in this case.

As a result of this examination the Laboratory advised that the questioned handprinting on the envelopes previously submitted was compared with the known handprinting on the 4,779 specimens forwarded by the New York Office but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known handprinting specimens from any of the individuals represented in the specimens submitted by the New York Office.

Inasmuch as the above investigation resulted negatively and there are no other known logical sources through which the identity of the subject might be determined, this case is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.

- RUC -

9 = 2566% 12

NY 9-1995

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

T-1

is identity is being kept confidential in view of the nature of his employment.

REFERENCE: Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, 2/25/54 and 2/26/54.

Report of SA

New York letter to the Bureau 3/30/54, 4/5,7,19/54.

Bureau letters to New York 4/15/54 and 4/16/54 and 5/4/54.

8 -25 GG 9 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ANISTYPE message to:

FBI, LOS ANGELES

6/4/54

VDIRECTOR, FBI (9-25669)

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER DASH VICTIM, EXTORTION. THIS MATTER
IS PENDING AWAITING DEVELOPMENT OF OUTSTANDING LEADS AT NEW
YORK CITY. NEW YORK DIVISION REQUESTED TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION AND SUREP IMMEDIATELY.

MALONE

GDH:ndr 9-1618

cc: NEW YORK CITY (9-1995)

RECORDED-95

9-25-669-15

13 JUN 7 1953

FX-108

9 -25669-

13

Mr. Nichols_ Mr. Belmont. Mr. Harbo_

Mr. Mahr Mr. Parsons.

Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizen
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room

Mr. Holloman.

Miss Gandy.

5 () JUN 10 1954

all we

Bent____M

Per____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 6/8/54

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER-VITEX. RE LOS ANGELES AIR TEL, 6/4/54 Gandy

NY RUC REPORT SUBMITTED THIS CASE ON 5/26/54.

Mr. Rosen

-25669

Mr. Tolson. Mr. Boardman

Mr. Nichola Mr. Belmont Mr. Harbo

Mr. Mehr

Mr. Tamm. Mr. Sizoo ... Mr. Winterrowd

Tele. Room Mr. H dioman_

3-BUREAU (9-25669) 1-LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

- 2566914

B JUN 9 1954

EES:PAF (#5

Approved:

Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1 This case originated at LOS	ANGELES			
REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY	- »pam
LOS ANGELES	6/11/54	5/7/54 6/9/54		(A)
TITLE	<i>(</i>)		CHARACTER OF CASE	
UNICIONN SUBJECT; A	RT LINKLETTE	R - VICTIM	EXTORTION	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Vic	tim has moss	ivod na additi	3	
Log	ical investi	gation has failed	l threatening comm to produce suspec	unications.
,		- C -		
DOMETIC.		-		в в
DETAILS:				
At 1	Los Angeles,	California:		
	54	ecretary to Victin	a ART LINKLETTER,	advised on
June 9, 1954, that tions of any kind.	Victim has	received no additi	ional threatening	communica-
2				
Inas	much as logi	ical investigation	has failed to ide	entify the
unkrewn subject and	i onere are i	io leads outstands	ing, this matter is	closed.
1		- C -		49
			•	
		i i green de la companya de la comp La companya de la co	, f	
		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
		'n		
COPIES DESTROYED		9 •	256692	415
301 JUL 21 1965		4 4	August Marie Committee Com	
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
FORMARDED:	SPECIAL AGE IN CH		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACE	
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COPIES OF THIS RE		16 JUN 15	1934 July 11	EX-122
(2)- Bureau (9-25669))	1916		
al THe Secattorney,	Los Angeles		Mary Link	
l - Los Angeles (9-)	and the second) =	
49 (7-1	.~	The state of the terms of the t		

LA 9-1618

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDMUND E. SENESAC deted May 26, 1954, at New York.

Report of Special Agent (A) dated April 2, 1954, at Los Angeles.

9 -25669- 15

Office Memorandum • United States Government

L. B. NICHOLS TO

DATE: 4-11-56

PROM

D. J. PARSONS

SUBJECT:

Art Linkle VIKEX

9-25669

Ts.mm Sizpo -Winterrowd Tele. Room -Holloman

Tolson

Nichols . Belmont Harbo Mohr

Parsons Rosen _

Boardman

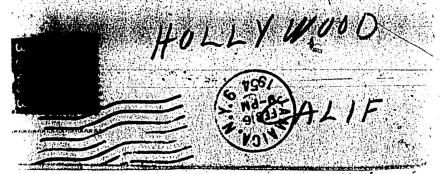
7 25 67-NOT RECORDED 1 AND 12 1956

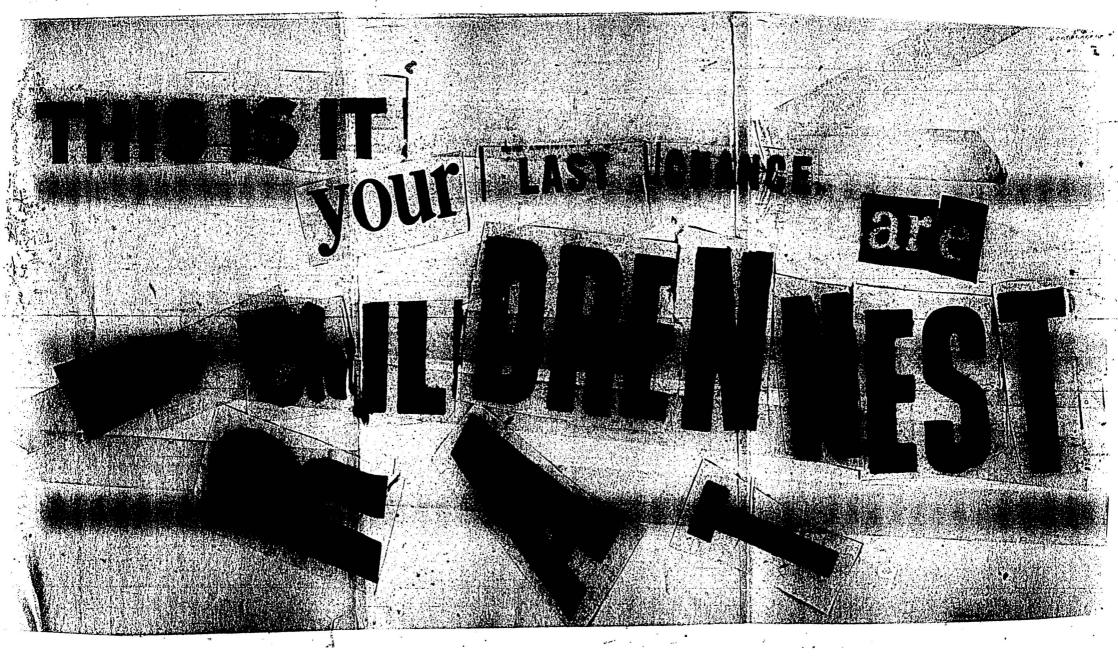
There is ttached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above-captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

9' = 250 9 Le

ART. LIMMLETTERS

C.B.S. TELEVIORS





FFDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 3-4-54

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FITE

Re:

UNSUB

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

File # 9-25669

Lab. # D-180956

Examination requested by:

SAC, LA (9-1618)

Date of reference communication:

2-26-54

Date received:

3-3-54

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

En & paper Q5, Q6 different from Q1-Qy (2/25/54)

HP 95 colent HP envs. 91, 87

Specimens submitted for examination

CE Envelope bearing hp address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S. TELEVION MOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 16 1954 9-PM."

66 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE CHILDREN AND HEST RAT."

also submitted: Photostato of Q 5, Q6.

HPQ5- ART LIKKLETTERRY AND Jelens

QHPQ, ART LINKLETTERS

HOLLYWOOD 25668- 16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 4/2/54 bdf

LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB.

ART LINKLETTER

VIKEX

File # 9-25669 Lab. # D-182582 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, New York (9-1995)

Date of reference communication: 3/30/54

Date received: 4/1/54

Examination requested:

Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

of signif moted which would suggest have described submitted for examination further from

Kl - Kl030 1030 specimens taken from 1030 students attending Thomas A. Edison Vocational School and Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School.

P1,3,5 ART-LINKLE TTER

LE LETTER

LE LE VION

HOLLYWOOD

CALIFORNIA

12/18/14 11/8/14 11/8/14

9 -25668=

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 4-7-54

Laboratory Work Sheet

ALC

Re: UNSUB.;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

File # 9-25669 Lab. # D-182792 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, New York (9-1995)

Date of reference communication: Let. 4-5-54

Date received: 4-6-54

Examination requested: Doc.

Result of Examination:

Examination by

to suggest any further known.

Specimens submitted for examination

K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School, Long Island, New York.

NO. 91,3,5 pres 2A letters 2/25/54

1 " (C. gales - 9-16.18)

Jak Resont 11-16-54 CTC ! PAL

9 -25669-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 4-9-54 eaw

Re:

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Lab File

File # 9-25669

Lab. # D-182942 AX

Examination requested by:

SAC, New York 9-1995

Date of reference communication: Let. 4-7-54

Date received: 4-8-54

Examination requested:

Doc.

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

Q1, 3, 5 pier LA letters 2/25 nothing of sig in \$2713 thru 3516

Specimens submitted for examination

K2713 - K3516 Known specimens obtained from 804 students of Shimer Junior High School.

9 -25669-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 4/22/54 jar

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE

Re:

UNSUB.; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIME EXTORTION

File # 9-25669 Lab. # D-183597 AX

Examination requested by:

SAC, NY 9-1995

Date of reference communication:

let. 4/19/54

Date received: 4/21/54

Examination requested:

Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

Ъ6 Ъ7С

153517->4779 moily sig with \$1,3,5

Specimens submitted for examination

ce Los Angoles (9-1618)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 3-2-54

Laboratory Work Sheet

UNSUB;

Re: ATT LINKLETTER -VICTIN EXTOUTION

Lab.File

File #9-25669 Lab. # D-180737 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles (9-New)

Date of reference communication:

Let. 2-25-54

Date received:

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

QI - Q4 No Id a lf. lopy added. Phy. chais times Separate upt on latents. Erel to SFPS.

Examination by:

b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

- Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink ART 01 LINKLETTER C-J.S. TELEVISION WOLL: CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FER _ 1954."
- Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "We want you...." ending on reverse side "you Tramp."
- Big Envelope bearing the hand printed address *ART -IJNKIETTERS C. B.S. . THEY ACOD CALETTENIA", Districted "JATAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954
- Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "List This It's...." ending "WARRING."

Hp. Q1, Q3 searched a. L. D. UC Hp. (n.y. + Calif.)

Nothing similar found.

3/3/54

Rmb

=2566**%**=

Plain white envelope which measures 4.77" x 4.00" x 0.0052"-0.0054".

4.77" x 4.00" x 0.0052"-0.005".

no wm.

message male uf g letters a words clipful
from newspectal to de let

from newspaper (probably) attached to fiece of lines fafer (spell paper) with transparent alkesive tape (Scotch Paper measures 11.90" x 6.11"-6.13" x 0.0023".

Itm. "Riveriele Bond" Riveriele Paper Corp.
"Made in Q. D. 50 69 appleto, It is.

The Light buff envelope which measures 5.78" × 3.79"-3.80" × 0.0056"-0.0059"

No com.

Or words clipfed from newspaper attacked to piece of black paper with transfarent achesive tape.

Q3 Similar to Q1.

letters words diffed from newofaper attached to sheet I white paper (10.96" x 8.53" x 0.0030") with transfarent sellicine tape.

9 = 256 (9 - 1)

TE

FBI

		Date: 5/16/58	
Tran	arms the following in	AIRTEL	
		(Type in plain text or code)	
Via .		AIR MAIL (Priority or Method of Mailing)	
			1
n H	. TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI	
1	FROM:	SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)	
	RE:	BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM	
		EXTORTION	Au ·
er o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o	air mail l CBS, Holly	Subject directed partially incoherent hand etter postmarked Molena, Georgia 5/12/58 to wood, California, which is as follows:	written victim,
Administration to the second special property and the second special s	you will w won't help boy ROBERT \$700 this as well as up to you.	"I am a gang leader and I have 15 boys in alifornia State. If you don't do what you ish you had. The police or FBI or any othe. If you don't sent \$700 this date I said or JACK will be murdered, as told send me date 5/17 or 19 or 20 so if you want boys t yourself sen cash or check. No marked bil Send money or check to Mr. BENNIE JAMES Rorgia, Route Number 2."	are told r law your money o live ls. It
	Letter han LINKLETTER	An unfired .22 calibre bullet was enclosed n letter, subject refers to self as 18 year dled by LINKLETTER employee who cons fan ma aware of letter but not concerned regardins author seems like mental case.	old boy.
	3)- Bureau	Instant letter turned over to FBI, Los Ange to ART LINKLETTER. a (SPECIAL DELIVERY)	
	1 - Los An	geles	
	JMC:hts (5)	L-038 MCT/41 B MAY 19 195	8
		EX-135 244	C1
L.	52 MAY 23 19		
identia.	Approved:	SentM Per	

IA 9-2142

ROBERT LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	12
Height	5'10"
Weight	140
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown

JACK LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	19
Height	61
Weight	160
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue

ART LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	44
Height	5'10"
Weight	160
Hair	Light Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair

AUSA Los Angeles, desires inquiry to establish age and mental capacity of subject before making prosecutive decision.

Letter being forwarded to Bureau.

Request Atlanta through inquiry at Molena, Georgia develop information concerning subject and advise.

- 2 -

- FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

FBI, Atlanta

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM: VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION

Examination requested by:

Washington Field Office

Reference:

Letter 5/26/58

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Hemarks:

Enclosures (3) (3 Lab report)

2 - Washington Field Office - Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

GFM: PCC

34483

REPORT of the

LABORATORY ...

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta

Date:

May 29, 1958

FBI File No.

D-279896 DJ

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -

VICTIM:

Re:

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Specimens received from FBI, Washington Field Office, 5/26/53

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 P.M."

Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."

Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadage I am a white..." ending on reverse side "...do something very soon Address

Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."

Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on reverse side "...out of danger."

Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending "...army marine crop."

One-page handwritten letter dated 3/15/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga R#2."

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon, Georgia."

Results of Examination:

Q1 through Q6 were compared with the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification.

Boardman other identifying Belmont determining the	ough Q6 do g characte: sources of	not contain a ristics which the envelopes	ny watermarks or would assist in and paper.
Nease	541		
Rosen Page 1		Continued	next page
Tamm			
Trotter GFM:PCC			
Clause and			
Telo, Room (7)			
Holloman			
Holloman MAIL ROOM [. •	0 1 1 0 1	
AND A STATE OF THE	1.4	34483	Fu?

You will be separately advised regarding the results of the latent fingerprint examination. You will be advised of the disposition of the evidence in the fingerprint report. Photographs are retained in the files of the Bureau.

Page 2 D-279896 DJ

9 34483

Recorded 5/28/58 PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 5-29-58 12:00Noon 198 LAB FILE

LATENT

Re: BENNIK JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIKON - VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORY ION

File # /- 3 8 9 13

Lab. # D-279896 DJ

Examination requested by:

FBI, Washington Field Office Letter 5/26/58

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Date received: 5/26/58

(Personally delivered) Examination by:

Result of Examination:

No late to Therendo

G1 + G6 + A5 & WFO

Original reports of sept sept set

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge YELENA GA. MAY 9 1958 RMX P.M."

- Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."
- One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadage I am a white ... " ending on reverse side "...do something very soon Address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."
- One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning Q4 "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on reverse side "...out of danger."
- Piece of paper bearing handwritten lotter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending "...army marine crop."
- One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week ... " ending on reverse side "...this address Boshie

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

page 2 D-279896 DJ . DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/26/58

Att: FBI LABORATORY

. : SAC, WFO

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART/LINKLETTER - VICTIM; Vice President RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM

Senator HERMAN/TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION (OO: AT)

Re Bureau telephone call to WFO 5/26/58.

SA DONALD E. WALTER contacted Senator HERMAN TALMADGE of Georgia on the morning of 5/26/58, and obtained from him letters dated 4/5/58, 5/10/58, and 5/15/58, addressed to Senator TALMADGE from BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose address is shown as Molena, Georgia.

Accompanying the three above letters from RIGGINS was a copy of a letter from Senator TALMADGE to the Sheriff of Pike County, Georgia, wherein the Senator advised the sheriff of having received handwritten letter from the subject and drawing it to the sheriff's attention. The Senator's letter was dated 5/13/58.

advised that she and the following persons had personally handled the letters from RIGGINS to the Senator.

and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. Il of the above persons are attached to the office staff of Senator TALMADGE.

The above documents were delivered to SA GEORGE DINGLE of the FBI Laboratory the morning of 5/26/58. The Laboratory is requested to submit original Laboratory report to Atlanta. Rue.

3-Bureau 2-Atlanta 1-WFO DEW: pap (6)

would be evel. rectained in lab file

Date:

May 26, 1958

CHILLY.

To.

Mr. U. E. Baughman

Chief, United States Secret Service

Treasury Department Washington 25, D. C.

From:

John Edgar Hoover - Director Federal Eureau of Investigation

Subject:

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM;

EXTORTION

This is to confirm information furnished Special Agent of your office on May 24, 1958, by Mr. O. H. Bartlett of this Bureau regarding Bennie James Riggins having admitted writing a threatening letter to Vice-President Richard Nixon within the past two weeks.

Bennie James Riggins, age 18, of Molena, Georgia, was interviewed by Special Agents of this Bureau's Atlanta Office on May 22, 1958. At this time he admitted having written letters within the past two weeks to Vice-President Nixon, Senator Herman Talmadge, and Art Linkletter, television personality, in which he demanded \$200 each from Vice-President Nixon and Senator Talmadge and \$700 from Linkletter on threat of death if they failed to pay.

E 1 MAY 2 7

To State

Boartman .

A doctor who has treated Riggins in the past has advised that he is not mentally sound and has diabetes incipidus.

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	CB:jlp (4)
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	1958

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

H

EC'D-READING ROOM

MAIL ROOM

Mr. U. E. Baughman

Riggins was arrested by the Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Georgia, for having written the threatening letter to Senator Talmadge, and he was released from the Pike County Jail, May 21, 1958, on \$500 bond.

The matter of Riggins having written threatening letters to Vice-President Nixon, Senator Talmadge, and Art Linkletter will be discussed with an appropriate United States Attorney for his opinion as to desired prosecutive action. You will be furnished copies of this Bureau's investigative reports in this matter.

NOTE: On 5/26/58, Mr. DeLoach in Mr. Nease's Office, contacted Mr. Kenneth Turner, Administrative Assistant to Senator Talmadge, regarding the above matter. Mr. Turner advised that he would make the letter sent to Senator Talmadge available to Mr. DeLoach. Supervisor WFO, was advised to have an SA immediately proceed to Senator Talmadge's Office and obtain the letter written by subject from Mr. Turner.

b7C

O. H. Bartlett, Liaison Section, on 5/26/58, contacted the Protective Research Unit, U. S. Secret Service, in an attempt to obtain the letter sent to Vice-President Nixon by the subject. Secret Service advised that they did not have this letter immediately available; however, they would contact the Vice-Presidents Office and endeavor to locate instant letter.

FBI

D	FB1		
	Date: 5/22/58		
ransmit	t the following in(Type in plain text or code)		
ia	AIRTEL .	Ž.	
!:	(Priority or Method of Mailing)	Z.	
	·		T
	Sat Control of the Co		
ļ	TO: DIRECTOR, FBI	kn C	
1	FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)	3 () 8	1
3	SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;	å 📝	1
	ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM:	7/0	I
*	VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON-VICTIM; Senator HERMAN/TALMADGE-VICTIM	š 6	1
· B	EXTORTION	中一生	9.
r.	OO; ATLANTA	$t \setminus c$	
**************************************	OO. AIDANIA		
	Apartan Annalan pintal to Rumony dated 5/16/59	\ \ .	ĺ
	Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 5/16/58	/	
	Title changed to add names of victims, Vice		
•	President RICHARD NIXON and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. Subject located and interviewed this date Molena, Ga.		
	Subject in signed statements admitted sending letters		l
	within the past 2 weeks to victims demanding \$700 from		
	LINKLETTER, \$200 from NIXON and \$200 from TALMADGE and threatened to have them killed for their failure to pay.	\ \`_	
	Subject, 18 years of age, advised that he completed 7th		
	grade and that about 5 years ago he was committed to State Hospital, Milledgeville, Ga. for "High Temper"	7	
	M.D. who treated subject in the past advised subject not		3
	mentally sound and has diabetes incipidus. Subject was		
	arrested by Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Ga. and release from Pike County Jail, 5/21/58 on \$500 bond for writing	ged :	
	letter to TATMADOR	3	
	Wro and		1
	Bureau notify Secret Service as to signed statement of subject concerning his mailing extortion		:
PANES 333-4295	letter containing threat to Vice-President MAY 24 1958	()	
	Washington Field Office will obtain extorcion Letters from Vice-President NIXON and SENATOR TALMADGE	.)	
D.	and will forward them to Laboratory for comparison purpos	,3 8087	F
	with handwriting of subject obtained by this office.)	
	2 Puncou O Los Angeles O Maghington Highligh	<u> </u>	7
ED	- 3-Bureau 2- Los Angeles 2- Washington Fiera 2- Atlanta		£.
	JPG/rih SentM Per	13. 13.1	-
	Special Agent in Charge	**************************************	2
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FBI

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Transmit the follo	owing in	*1		
			(Type in plain text or code)	
V:=		i i		
			(Priority or Method of Mail	ing)

AT 9-1299

LOS ANGELES:

Will discuss facts concerning subject's writing letter to LINKLETTER with AUSA.

Atlanta is considering itself Office of Origin since subject resides in Atlanta territory and extortion letters mailed from that Division.

ATLANTA:

AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

Will review records State Hospital for information as to diagnosis of subject's mental condition.

ATLANTA:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will notify Secret Service as to extortion letter to NIXON. Will discuss facts with USA as to threats directed to Vice-President NIXON and Senator Talmadge.

9 34483

8

-2-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142)

June 12, 1958 Date:

FBI File No.

REC-82

Lab. No.

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM; VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION

Examination requested by:

f Transmittal Form

Los Angeles

Baference:

Letter 5/27/58

Examination requested:

Document

Hemarks:

Q1 through Q6 were submitted by the Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1958.

No record was found in the Laboratory of known handwriting specimens of the subject submitted by the Atlanta Office.

Enclosures (5) (Q7, Q8, 3 Lab report)

1 - Atlanta - Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Washington Field Office - Enclosure (Lab report)

GFM: PCC (6)

34483

John Edgar Hoover, Director

9-34483 - 1

D-280279 DJ

MAILLU 5 JUN 1 º 1958 COMM-FBI

AIL ROOM

KEPORT of the

LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

FBI, Los Angeles

Date:
FBI File No.
Lab. No.

June 12, 1958 9-34483 D-280279 DJ

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION
Specimens received 5/29/58

- Q7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in the upper left-hand corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Monday May 12, 1958; this is...," ending on reverse side"...don't fool around."

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on Q7 and Q8 was prepared by the writer of specimens Q1 through Q6, previously submitted in connection with this case.

Q7 and Q8 are returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

GFM:PCC (7)

9 34489

MAIL ROOM

Office Memorandum · United States Government DATE: 5/20/50 DIRECTUL, FLI DSAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142) ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY 280279 BENNIE JAMES RÍGGINS; SUBJECT: ARTICINKLETTER -VICTIM: Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM; Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM OO: ATLANTA EXTORTION Remyairtel 5/16/58. Enclosed herewith is the original and a photostatic copy of the letter received by victim, ART LINKLETTER, from subject. The .22 caliber bullet which was included in the letter is being retained in this office. It is requested that the handwriting in the enclosed letter be compared with handwriting specimens of the subject, which were submitted by the Atlanta Office. (3)- Bureau (Encl. 2) (REGISTERED) I - Los Angeles JMC: mmw (4)34483 13 MAY 29 1958 EX-101 ~

Manolazi this viver importing may 12, 1958 danger no Jokerata Four art I wrote you a few weeks ago Danne young Boy eighter. I have sein you of we large in people that Sont even need, ar Bad and wood of Jam a Lang lead" now and mean Buch live are 15 Boys in In California dale if you will wish had my Born hand Wiannolinon of the solvand The Holice FB1 92-131 ar one Other laws want helpany I gou don't send me \$700.00. Mow Bay Robert and Jack? my gang to a few States like Horsey will show some How may come those if you on money \$ 700.00 dollar there for

address Browne James Roggin. if you want your Boy to live may 17,00-1900 120 20 16 you want your Boy to live and well as jour self-send Cash on the Kno mark Bill Roman sill up your part les it is to Boy Live we men Just and last comme your Boy to death ar well de Jali your aver like vir call by nome we are post at the new well Sang Ite up to you this no falle Send the money or check Jon & 700.00 dolles to their address Mr. Bennie James Riggii Molena Ganet 2 don't fool-around.

FBI

5/27/58 Date:

cansmit the following in	
. sasint the following in	(Type in plain text or code)
AIRTEL	AIR MAIL
	(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM:

SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

RE:

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS: ART/EINKLETTER - VICTIM: VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM; SENATOR HERMAN DTALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

00: Atlanta

Re Atlanta airtel to the Director 5/22/58.

Information concerning subject developed by Atlanta Office discussed with AUSA ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles 5/26/58.

AUSA HORNBAKER declined prosecution in favor of prosecutive decision of USA, Atlanta, Georgia inasmuch as all letters originated within Georgia judicial district.

- Bureau

- Atlanta (9-1299)

1 - Washington Field

1 - Los Angeles

JMC/lah (6)

8 MAY 29 1958

EX-IdO

Return Bennië Riggins 1/14 dings
Molena Ha R 77 2 1958

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Ort Jinkleller

CB S Hollswood:

California

5/28/58

SAC, Atlanta (9-1299)

Director, FBI

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM; VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM; BENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM; EXTORTION

Strop

Reurairtel 5/22/58.

Mr. Robert J. Bouck, Special Agent in Charge, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service, White House, Washington, D. C., on 5/26/58 advised Bureau's liaison representative that they were in possession of the letter written by subject to Vice President Nixon.

Mr. Bouck stated Secret Farvice desired to retain this letter in view of the threat to Vice President Nixon.

Mr. Bouck advised that this letter would be made available to the Bureau if such was needed in any pending prosecution against the subject.

NOTE:

Above per 0. H. Bartlett, Liaisen Section.

CB:mlmrdard (4)

34483

REC-83

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24 JUN 3 1958

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MAY 2 3 1958

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BUREAU OF INVI



ION

Washington 25, D. C.

REPORT

of the

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

Identification Division

YOUR FILE NO. FBI FILE NO. May 29, 1958

LATENT CASE NO.

15633

TO:

SAC, Atlanta

RE:

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. MIXON - VICTIM SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION

REFERENCE:

Letter WFO dated 5/26/58

EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY:

y: WFO

SPECIMENS:

Two envelopes and accompanying letters, Ql through Qo Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58 to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins, Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon, Georgia"

No latent impressions developed on specimens designated Q1 through Q6.

Q1 through Q6 and the carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58 are being forwarded with copies of this report to WFO.

Laboratory report separate.

REC- 83

2 - WFO (Enclosures 7)

COMM -- FEI

19 JUN 3 1958

JW:emh

Molve

Original report sent to Atlanta Office per request

of relet.

84423

John Edga Hoover, Directo

JUN 6 1958

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

·• Transmittal Porm



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta (9-1299)

Date: June 16, 1958

84 FBI File No. 9-34483 - 6

D-280989 DJ

Meb

John Edgar Hoover, Director

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS:
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.
NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTICN

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta

Peterence:

Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested:

Document

aemarks:

Q1 through Q6 were submitted by Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1958. Q7 and Q3 were submitted by the Los Angeles Office under date of May 27, 1958.

JUN 1 6 1958

all repts. Cb: for

Enclosures (4) (K1, 3 Lab report)

1 - Washington Field Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Los Angeles Enclosure (Lab report)

GFM:bc (6)

34483

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MAIL ROOM 5 9 JUN 1.8 1958

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REPOSIT

FB B

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: PBI, Atlanta

Re: BENKIE JAMES RIGGINS:
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PHESIDENT RICHARD M.
NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR ELEMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION
Specimens received 6/9/58

Fair France 14 1958

Kl Four scots of releaseper pearing promy handers ting of BENGIE JAMES RIGGIES.

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that al through G6 were prepared by BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose known handwriting specimens are designated above as Kl.

Kl is returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

GFM:bo (50)

Ekaminan

4489

S

ffice Memorandum · United States Government

WINFOTOR, FBI

6/5/58 DATE:

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM YSAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

280989

SUBJECT:

BENNIE, JAMES RIGGINS: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON - VICTIM SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION

Re Atlanta airtel to the Bureau dated 5/22/58.

Enclosed herewith are four pages of handwriting specimens of subject BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

The Laboratory is requested to compare enclosed handwriting specimens with handwriting found on extortion letters.

Following completion of the examination, the Laboratory is requested to forward results of the comparison to the Atlanta and Los Angeles Offices. The Laboratory may

REC-1 34483

JUN 9 1958

(2) - Eureau (Encls. 4)(RM) - Washington Field Office

- Los Angeles

1 - Atlanta (9-1299)

JPG:hcs (5)

Recorded 6/10/58 bp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE OPENED ...

9-34483 - 8 D 280989 DJ

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGLIS;

ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON-VICTIM

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM

EXTORTION

Examination requested by:

PBI, Atlanta (9-1299)-Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested:

Document

Result of Examination: :

Date received:

Examination by:

Lab. *

b6

Evid stat'd 6/11/58 bup

Specimens submitted for examination

CHECK # AMOUNT SPECIMEN DATE PAYABLE TO SIGNED BY BANK

Kl Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

ENCLOSURE

ROLL 498 DATE 648

dan gong leaster and ghouse 10 1201, in my Hang, 6 and is Caleborn not stale if you don't do wa what you are last you were wishyou have the the police on FBI or any : Elus law word help if you don't rend \$700.00 dollar. Our date I was your Box Robert on Jack Will Be muster ar told mi money even tunders their date mong 1702 1902 20 20 20 16 you would Boy to live an well ar your self rense cost of theely no mark Bill it up to you rend horez or check to mer. Benne Janes Mygens moleroc 200-

Jam a Hang linder I have fel too fla Boyn in huy Lang to are in california State if you So what you we take you will Her the you had if you don't send Elice ve dollar their dale I raid you Roy Robert of Jack will be howden artill send me honer \$700,00 dollar the bala may 17 our 19 ar 2000 if you want Boy to hive on well asyone the ind could be checke no hack till it up to you Und hone, check to how. Remie Janie, Riggin moleno Ho.

dans a gang a leaster i now. 15 Boys is my forego le are ini californie state if you don't do what you are told you will wish you had the police or FBI or any ather low won't help it you don't rend sever hundred dollast ther dall I andid your Boy Robert of Jolk will be how is a told und me more rue hundred dollar this date & may 1700 1900 20 20 20 it you want Boy to live an Well ar your self send contract check no mark tellet up to you rend money on check to mi Benni James Riggins maleno Sta. 7142

Molena Sa May 22, 1958 I Bennie James Ruggins Hand willing voluntarily the quilt Brown for Junt over the lazy dog Molena Ha. May 22, 1958 I Bennie James Raggins the quick Brown for Junt aver

Office Memorandum · united states government

	33		- 26°		
Ho	70 pm	20- 10- 10-	SACO allanta (Your file (9-1299) DATE: 7.	15-58	
Ò	EDOM		Director, FBI (Bufile and serial (9 - 34483)	1	
	FROM		biffector, rbi (builte and serial / - 5 9 9 8 3		
		3	Bennie James Raggins;		
	subjec	T:	Benne games Riggins; ait Linkeletter wichen without or the President Richard Nixon - without or	Origin:	
	1. ()	The deadline In this case has passed and the Bureau has	not /	٥
			received a report. You are instructed to submit a repor		
			immediately. In the event a report has been submitted,		
			should make a notation of the date on which it was specific	cted	
			on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No	L101/1381	
			Report submitted		
			Report will be submitted		
			Reason for delay		
			Submit 2 cc of all reports		
				es 11	
	/		m '		
80) کبی	سل	Advise Bureau re status of this case.	34483	
-	X. ()	Advise Bureau when report may be expected.		
	4. ()	Surep immediately.		

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956—0-377806

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period	
. 2 (17)	L'ILLANDA	7/31/:-	3/22,29,30;5/20,30;	7/11 -
TITLE OF CASE		Report made by		Typed By:
LINKLETTER - LINKLETTER - LID PRESIDENT RI LIDIN; LATOR HERMAN TA	VICTIM; ICHARD N. NIXON -	CHARACTER OF CAS	EXTORTION	

Ject in signed statements admitted sending letters to Victims LINLETTER, NIXON, and TALMADGE demanding \$700 from LINKLETTER, 100 from NIXON, and \$200 from TALMADGE, and threatened to have some killed in their failure to pay. Subject, 18 years of ago, thised that he completed 7th Grade, and that about five years to he was committed to State Hospital at Milledgeville, Georgia, yeleased from Pike County Jail May 21, 1958, on \$500 bond on arge of writing threatening letter. Subject was committed to lete Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia, August 7, 1953, where condition was diagnosed as "mental deficiency with psychotic reaction". AUSA, Atlanta, declines prosecution.

- C -

DETAILS:

Envestigation in this matter is predicated upon receipt of copy communication from Los Angeles to the Director dated May 10,

Approved /		Special Agent In Charge		Do noi writ	e in spaces below		
Copies mader	ı (9-34483)		9-	2448	1-9	REC-]
7-USA, 1 1-1•s Ar	tlanta ngeles (Info.) (ta (9-1299)	9-2142) (1-U	A, Los	Angeles)		t	4 -4
	Ice Secret	Lamos			15/ set		
ordeniga (s.).	8 .	14.5 lb: fu		- Vla	STV CAP		
	7	· · ·	1	100 mg	97		

59 AUG 18 1958

C

AT 9-1299 directed partially incoherent handwritten air mail letter postmarked Molena, Georgia, May 12, 1958, to victim, CES, Hollywood, California, which is as follows: " I am a gang leader and I have 15 boys in my gang, o are in California State. If you don't do what you are told you will wish you had. The police or FBI or any other law won't help. If you don't sent \$700 this date I said your boy ROBERT or JACK will be murdered, as told send me money \$700 this date 1/17 or 19 or 20 so it you want boys to live as well as yoursell sen open or cheek. No marked bills. It up to you. Good money or chook to Mr. BEXNES COMES RIGGINS. Molena, Georgia, Roube Number Q." An unfired. 22 calibre bullet was enclosed in the In letter, subject refers to self as 15 year old boy. Letter handled by LINKLETTER employed who opens fan moil. LINKLETTER aware of letter but not concerned ing threats as believes author seems like montal case. Instant letter turned ever to FRI, Log Rhaeles, to and linkibertest. May 16, 1998, by ROBERT LINKLETTER in described as: Age: 511011 Height: 140 lbs. Weight: Black Hair: Brown Exes: TACK LINKLETTER is described as: Age: Height: 160 Weight: Brown Hair: Blue. Eyes: ART LINKLETTER is described as: 44 Age: 5110" Height: 1.60 Weight: Light Brown Hair: Eyes: Blue

Assistant U. S. Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, desired inquiry to establish age and mental capacity of subject before making prosecutive decision.

The Los Angeles Office reported that the letter addressed to LINKLETTER was being forwarded to the Bureau.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · united states government

ro	;	SAC,	ATLANTA	(9-1299)	DATE:	7/18/	/ 58
----	---	------	---------	----------	-------	-------	-------------

FROM: SA Dictated: 7/15/58

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

On May 22, 1958, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was located in Molena, Georgia, and executed the following signed statement, the original of which is maintained in the files of the Atlanta Office:

"Molena, Ga. May 22, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS. give the following voluntary statement to who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"I had been looking for work around Molena, Ga. and work was hard to find. I felt that if I had \$200.00 or \$300.00 I could go to Florida and get a job there. I felt I could get the money from some rich persons and I sat down and wrote a letter to ART LINKLETTER. I wrote that I wanted \$700.00, and that if he didn't send me the money, I would murder his sons. I also sent along a .22 caliber bullet in the letter. I placed the letter in the mail box outside my home, and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier about a week or two weeks ago.

"I am not a gang leader, and I don't belong to any gang. I had no intentions of harming or killing ART LINKLETTER or any member of his family. I have

JPG:rjb

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b6 b7 read above statement and I has Been Read to me and every word of it is true.

"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

"Witness:

Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

The following is a copy of the second signed statement executed by RIGGINS with respect to Vice President NIXON, the original of which statement is incorporated as an exhibit in the files of this office:

"Molena, Ga. May 28, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS. give the following voluntary statement to who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"About a week ago I wrote a letter to Vice President NIXON. In the letter, I wrote that if he didn't send me \$200.00 by a certain date, which I don't remember, that I would send some of my gang to kill him. I signed my name to the letter and also put my address on the letter.

"After finishing the letter, sealing it and placing a stamp on the envelop. I placed the letter in the mail box outside my home, and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier.

"I had not nor have any intentions of killing or harming Vice President NIXON or any member of his family. I do not have any gang nor am I a member of any gang. I

33

have Read the above Statement and I has Been Read to me and every word of it is true

"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

itness:					
	Special	Agent,	F.B.I.,	Atlanta,	Ga."

RIGGINS executed a signed statement with respect to a letter sent to Senator TALMADGE, and the following is a copy of that statement, original of which is maintained in the files of the Atlanta Office:

"Molena, Ga. May 22, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, give the following voluntary statement to who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have this statement, and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"About a week ago, I wrote a letter to Senator TALMADGE of Ga. In the letter, I wrote that I wanted \$200.00 and that if he didn't send it to me by the 17th or 18th of May, that I would send some of my gang up to Washington to kill him.

"I repeated that statement several times in the letter. I placed a stamp on the envelope enclosing the letter; placed the envelope and letter in the mail box outside my home and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier. I had nor have no intentions of killing or harming Senator TALMADGE in any way. I am not a member of any gang nor do I have any gang.

- 634460

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"I have Read the above statement and it as Been Read to me and every word of it is true

		"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS
'Witness:	,	Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

Additionally RIGGINS furnished four pages of handwriting specimens.

The following is a description of the subject as obtained by observation and interview:

> Name: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS Route 2, Molena, Ga. Address: Race: White Sex: Male Age: 18 Molena, Ga., November 15, 1939 Born:

Height: 516" Weight: 130 lbs. Eyes: Brown Hair: Red

Fair, freckles Complexion:

Build: Small Marital Status: Single

Education: Completed 7th Grade

Father: WALTER S. RIGGINS, Old Age Home,

Flovilla, Georgia; LULA MAE GIBSON. deceased

Mother: Brother:

Brother:

Sister:

Military Service: None Occupation: Unemployed; he advised he has never

worked, but has helped around home

and farm.

Relatives:

aunts

with whom RIGGINS resides on Route 2, Molena, Georgia, for past six years. Prior to this, subject advised that he was in Orphans Home from age 4 to 11 years of age at Hapeville, Ga.

Medical Condition: Subject advised he has diabetes

and is treated by

at Zebulon, Georgia

Characteristics: Has speech impediment mental condition; Subject advised that

he was in State Hospital,
Milledgeville, Georgia, about
five years ago for "high temper".

Arrests
Admitted:

Subject advised that he was arrested May 16, 1958, by Sheriff's Office, Zebulon, Georgia, for writing threatening letter to Senator TALMADGE, and was released from the Pike County, Georgia Jail, May 21, 1958, on bond.

Draft Status:

Subject advised that he has never registered for the draft

- 8 -

AT ZEBULON, GEORGIA

On May 22 1053	advised that he
On May 22, 1953, has treated subject in the past and t	thet sub-deat to the
has orea oed subject in the past and t	war andleder in wor
mentally sound" and is "not responsit	
added that he had had no rec	
subject but that the subject has dial	etes incipidus and may:
have a tumor of the pituitary gand.	
(may 12, 1958,	of
Sheriff J. ASTOR RIGGINS, Pike County	
BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was arrested by	the sheriff,
for writing a threatening letter to 5	
That he was released on \$500 bond on	May 21, 1958.

On the same day, Sheriff J. ASTOR RIGGINS advised that the subject would be tried in the Superior Court of Pike County, Georgia, on a charge of writing a threatening letter and that the punishment for that crime is a two to five year sentence.

AT MOLENA, GEORGIA

On May 22, 1958, Route 2, advised that she is an aunt of the subject and that the subject has been residing with her for several years. She stated that the subject is emotionally disturbed and has congenital diabetes. She described subject as being a "good boy" who has been a great deal of help around the house. She added that she has no information as to him writing extortion letters.

Washington Field Office letter to Director duted May 26, 1958, reported that SA DONALD E. WALTER contacted Senator HERMAN TALMADGE of Georgia on the morning of May 26, 1958 and obtained from him letters dated April 5, 1958, May 10, 1953, and May 15, 1958, addressed to Senator TALMADGE from BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose address is shown as Molena, Georgia.

Accompanying the three above letters from RIGGINS was a copy of a letter from Senator TALMADGE to the Sheriff of Pike County, Georgia, wherein the Senator advised the sheriff of having received handwritten letter from the subject and drawing it to the sheriff's attention. The Senator's letter was dated May 13, 1953.

advised that she and the following persons had personally handled the letters from RIGGINS to the Senator.

and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. All of the above persons are attached to the office staff of Senator TALMADGE.

The above documents were delivered to SA GEORGE DINGLE of the FBI Laboratory the morning of May 26, 1958.

Los Angeles letter to Director dated May 27, 1958, stated that information concerning Subject RIGGINS was discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, on May 26, 1958.

Assistant HORNBAKER declined prosecution in favor of prosecutive decision of U. S. Attorney, Atlanta, inasmuch as all letters originated within Georgia Judicial District.

Bureau letter to Atlanta dated May 28, 1958, reflected that Mr. ROBERT J. BOUCK, Special Agent in Charge, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service, White House, Washington, D. C., on May 26, 1958, advised Bureau's liaison representative that they were in possession of the letter written by subject to Vice President NIXON. Mr. BOUCK stated Secret Service desired to retain this letter in view of the threat to Vice President NIXON. Mr. BOUCK advised that this letter would be made available to the Bureau if such was needed in any pending prosecution against the subject.

The following are Laboratory reports dated May 29, 1958, May 29, 1958, and June 12, 1958:

AT 9-1299 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Washington 25, D. C. REPORT OF THE LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION Identification Division YOUR FILE NO. May 29, 1958 FBI FILE NO. LATENT CASE NO. 15633 TO: SAC, ATLANTA RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION Reference: Letter WFO dated 5/26/59 Examination Requested By: WFO Specimens: Two envelopes and accompanying letter, of through co Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58 to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins, Sheriff of Pike County, Zebuler. Georgia" No latent impressions developed on specimens designated Q1 through Q6. Ql through Q6 and the carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/53 are being forwarded with copies of this report to WFO. Laboratory report separate. 2-WFO (Enclosures 7) 34400

Continued next page

12 -

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AT 9-1299 Results of Examination: Q1 through Q6 were compared with the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. gl through 95 do not contain any watermarks or other identifying characteristics which would assist in determining the sources of the envelopes and paper. You will be separately advised regarding the results of the latent fingerprint examination. You will be advised of the disposition of the evidence in the fingerprint report. Photographs are retained in the files of the Bureau. Page 2 D-279896 DJ

REPORT OF THE

F B I LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles

Date: June 12, 1958

FBI File No. 9-34483

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

Lab. No. D-280279 DJ

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON -

VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Specimens received 5/29/58

C7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 12 1958 FM," bearing writing in the upper left-hand corner.

Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Monday May 12, 1958 this is...," ending on reverse side"...don't fool around."

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on Q7 and Q8 was prepared by the writer of specimens Q1 through Q6, previously submitted in connection with this case.

Q7 and Q8 are returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

AT 9-1299 By letter dated June 5, 1958, the Atlanta Division forwarded to the FBI Laboratory four pages of handwriting specimens of Subject RIGGINS. The following is a Laboratory report concerning these four pages of handwriting specimens of Subject RIGGINS dated June 16, 1958: 34488

REPORT OF THE

FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta

Date: June 16, 1958 FEI File No. 9-34483 Lab, No. D-280989 DJ

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; Re: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.

HIXON - VICTIM

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

Specimens received 6/9/58

Kl Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that Q1 through Q8 were prepared by BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose known handwriting specimens are designated above as Kl.

Kl is returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

34483

AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN P. O'BRIEN:

On May 29, 1958,

Milledgeville State Hospital, Milledgeville,

Georgia, advised that her records reflect BENNIE JAMES

RIGGINS was admitted to the hospital on August 7, 1953 under

hospital record #87448, and was furloughed from the hospital
on September 12, 1953. Subject's diagnosis was "Mental Deficioncy With Psychotic Reaction". Subject's condition at the
time of furlough was recorded as "improved".

advised since subject did not return to the hospital after
being furloughed, he was discharged from the hospital one
year after furlough, on September 12, 1954.

Petition For Commission of Lunacy for State of Georgia, Fike County, is dated August 7, 1953, and signed by

The records reflect subject was born November 15, 1939, address listed as Molena, Georgia, and guardian listed as a subject's Mistory Blank reflects subject's mother is deceased, and that subject has a 6th grade education. Subject, after his mother's death, was placed in Georgia Baptist Home For Children, Hapeville, Georgia, from March 30, 1944 to May 25, 1951. Subject has father, two brothers, and one sister, no names shown on the record.

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA

dn July 14, 1958, the facts of this case were discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney JOHN W. STOKES. Mr. STOKES advised that he is declining prosecution in this matter in view of the state prosecution pending against subject.

- C -

Office Memorandum · united s

OVERNMENT

Office	IVICITO CONTROL • UNITED 5	
то :	DIRECTOR, PDI (9-34483)	DATE: 7/21/58
FROM T	Anc, ATLANTA (9-1299)	
sunject:	BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM; VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -	
	VICTIM; SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM EXTORTION (ATLANTA:00)	
	Transmitted herewith is report of SA dated 7/21/58 at Atlanta, Georgia.	
	REFERENCES:	
	Los Angeles airtels to Bureau dated May Atlanta airtel to Director, May 22, 195 WFO letter to Bureau dated May 26, 1958 Bureau letter to Atlanta dated May 23, FBI Laboratory reports dated May 29; Ju Atlanta letter to Bureau dated June 5, WFO letter to Atlanta, June 13, 1958.	1958; ine 12,16, 1958;
	LEADS:	
1	LOS ANGELES (INFORMATION)	
	A copy of this report is being designated Angeles Office inasmuch as prosecutive this case was rendered by Assistant U. Los Angeles.	ODTHITOH TH
	9 34483	10
* .	(2) Bureau (Encl.2) 1-Los Angeles (Info.) (9-2142) (Encl.2)	2,,,,,,,,,
	JPG:rjb (4)	the transfer of the second

JUL 24:059

AT 9-1299

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Special Agent In Charge, U. S. Secret Service, Atlanta, Georgia, has been advised by letter of the decision of the U. S. Attorney in this matter.

34488 "10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting (Hice	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period	
2	LOS AUGELES	ATLANTA	7/29/50	5/16,25,26,27;6/10,	17,24;
TITLE OF			Report made by	<u>77375</u> 8	Typed Byb6
	BENNIE JAMES R	EGGINS;			jmf b70
.6	ART LINKLETTER VICE PRESIDENT		CHARACTER OF CAS	E	***************************************
	HIXON - VICTIM	TCLOTTING PI	EXTORTION		
	SENATOR HERMAN VICTIM	TALMADGE -	,		20 E S
	VICTIM				
n	AN 3 S 300000		:		28 1 Aug 2 Aug 2007

ganoben:

Subject directed letter to victim ART LINKLETTER, May 12, 1958, threatening life of victim and victim's sons unless \$700 in cash remitted to subject at Route #2, Molena, Georgia. Investigation at Molena, Georgia disclosed letter authored by subject, an eighteen year old boy who admitted writing instant threatening letter. Subject also admitted writing similar letters to Vice President RICHARD M. MIXON and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. Subject former inmate of Georgia Mental Hospital and presently suffering diabetic condition. Arrested by Pike County Sheriff's Office May 21, 1958 for writing threatening letter to Senator TALMADGE. Prosecution declined by Assistant United States Attorney, Los Angeles in favor of prosecutive action of United States Attorney, Atlanta, Georgia. Laboratory handwriting examination confirms subject as author of all letters.

- RUC

DETAILS:

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Approved	Special Agent In Charge		. Do not write in sp	aces below	
Copies made: 1 - Bureau (1 - USA, Los	Angeles	9-	34483	11	REC- 80
2 - Atlanta 1 - WFO 1 - Los Ange			ta A90		ne s
1 pc	Secret Service		eposition and the second secon	(Application of the second	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Reb. f. S. 18. 5	44	3.9		

59 AUG 18 1956

July 29, 1958

it Sontents are to be distributed outside the

·
On May 16, 1958 to ART LINKLEFTER
prominent radio and television entertainer, 8381 Reverty
Boulevard, Los Angeles, California advised SA that a threatening letter had been received in LINKLETTER's fan
mail that day whis letter, which was wandwritten in pencil on
lined notebook namer. was enclosed in a plain white envelope and
hore the address ART LINKLETTER, CBS, HollyWood, Calllorala.
The following notation appeared on the face of the envelope "if not dilvery 5 day return BENNIE RIGGINS, Molena, Ga. R #2." The
letter was dispatched by Air Mail and was postmarked at Molena,
Ga., PM, May 12, 1958. An unfired .22 caliber bullet was enclosed
with the letter.
made this letter available on May 16, 1958,
and its contents are set forth as follows:
"Monday "this is very important your boy May 12, 1958 1ife is in danger no jokes at all
May 12, 1958 life is in danger no jokes at all
"Dear Art
"I wrote you a few weeks ago I am a young boy eighteen I have seen you give large sum of money away on your show
neonle that don't even need it as bad as 1 need it 1 am a
dang leader now and mean business they are 15 boys in My
dang they are 6 of my boys in California States II you
don't do what your told you will wish had my boys hang around some of the school The police FBI GBI or any other laws
wante halm any if you don't send me \$700.00 Gollar at the
date I said your how ROBERT and JACK Will be murger I send
My dang to a few States like New York Chic go lils. Your
Houseparty show some Gang may come there if you don't send
me the money \$700.00 dollar this date
"address BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS
Molena GA R #2
if you want your boy to live
May 17, or 19 or 20 so if you want your boy to live or well
on your golf gold cash or check no mark bill know slip up
roum how life is at stake it up to you if you want your now
to live we mean business you are getting first and last
view with
ART LINKLETTER Date Distated: // Part Dist
5/16/58 at CBS, Hollywood, California

Property of FBI - This agency to which loaned.

by Special Agent

LA 9-2142

chance your boy ROBERT will be shot to death as well as JACK your own life is in danger don't you dare call my name we are part of the New York Gang Its up to you this no joke.

"Send the money or check for \$700.00 dollar to this address

Mr. BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS Molena Ga R #2

"don't fool around"

explained that Mr. LINKLETTER was a ware of
the letter's contents and was not concerned about its threats,
as he felt that its author was a "nut" of some kind.
According to LINKLETTER is not acquainted with
anyone in Molena, Georgia and has never heard of or recalls
any previous correspondence being received from anyone
by the name of RIGGINS, described victim ART
LINKLETTER as being age - Forty-Pour, height - five feet
ten inches, weight - one hundred sixty pounds, hair - light
brown, eyes - blue, and complexion - fair. She described
victim LINKLETTER's son, ROBERT, as being age - twelve,
height - five feet eight inches, weight - one hundred forty
pounds, hair - dark brown, and eyes - brown. LINKLETTER's
son, JACK, is described as age - nineteen, height - six feet,
weight - one hundred sixty pounds, hair - brown, and eyes -
blue.

JA 9-2142

The contents of this letter were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, California on May 16, 1958, who requested that an inquiry be made at Molena, Georgia to establish the age and mental capacity of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, before making a prosecutive decision.

On May 16, 1958 the Atlanta office was advised by Airtel of the contents of the threatening letter received by ART LINKLETTER from subject, and that office was requested to make inquiry at Molena, Georgia concerning BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS so that the Assistant United States Attorney at Los Angeles might be advised.

On May 22, 1958 the Atlanta office advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, when interviewed on May 22, 1958 at Molena, Georgia, admitted in signed statements directing letters within the past two weeks to victims demanding \$700 from LINKLETTER, \$200 from NIKON, and \$200 from TALMADGE. Each letter threatened to kill the victim if he failed to pay. RIGGINS, according to the Atlanta information, is an eighteen year old boy who has completed the seventh grade. Five years ago he was committed to the State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia for "high temper." A medical doctor who treated the subject in the past advised that he (subject), is not mentally sound and has diabetes incipidus.

The Atlanta Airtel further advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was arrested by the Sheriff's Office of Pike County, Georgia on May 21, 1958 for writing the threatening letter to Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. RICCONS was released from the Pike County Jail on May 12, 1958 on \$500 bond.

The information concerning BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS as received from the Atlanta office was discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Southern District of California, Los Angeles, on May 26, 1958. Mr. HORNBAKER declined prosecution of RIGGINS for a violation of the Federal Extortion Statute in favor of any prosecutive decision which might be made by United States Attorney at Atlanta, Georgia, inasmuch as the letter to LINKLETTER originated within the Georgia Judicial District and the subject resides in that territory.

9 ... - 34433

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LA 9-2142

On May 27, 1958 the letter recleved by victim ART LINKLETTER from subject together with the envelope containing the same were submitted to the FBI Laporatory for handwriting comparisons with letters to the other victims, which were being submitted for a comparitive examination by the Washington Field Division. Laboratory, by letter dated June 12, 1958, advised that the handwriting on the letter addressed to ART LINKLETTER was prepared by the author of the letters addressed to victims lice President NIXON and Senator TALMADGE.

- RUC -

9 34483 11

Office Memorandum · United States Government

: DIRECTOR, FBI (9-34453)

DATE: July 29, 1958

SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

SUBJECT:

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. MIXON - VICTIM

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE

VICTIM EXTORTION 00: Atlanta

Enclosed herewith is report of SA dated as above at Los Angeles in the above captioned case.

REFERENCES

Los Angeles Airtel to the Director, May 16, 1958, with copy to Atlanta. Atlanta Airtel to the Director, dated May 22, 1958, with copy to Los Angeles. Los Angeles Airtel to the Director, dated May 27, 1958, with copies for Atlanta and Washington Field Office.

1 - Bureau (Encl. -1) 2 - Atlanta (Encls. -2) (9-1299) 1 - WFO (Encl. -1) 1 - Los Angeles

JMC: jmf

(5)

59 AUG 18 358

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

JOHN J. MCGUIRE

DATE: 4-26-60

subject: Bennie Jemes Riggins;

Art Linkletter, victim; Vice President Richard N. Nixon, victim, Senator Herman Talmadge, victim Extortion

9-34483

There is enclosed the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above-captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Branch.

Enclosure

V FINALOSURIA

51 APR 27 1960

NOT RECORDE

10 APR 27 19

Callahan DeLoach McGutre _

Trotter . W.C. Sullivan Tele. Room _ Ingram __ Gandy _

Recorded 5/28/58 PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

LATENT Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

File # 9- 3 4483 Lab. # D-279896 DJ

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

turn to att.

Examination requested by:

FBI, Washington Field Office

Letter 5/26/58

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Date received: 5/26/58

Result of Examination:

esult of Examination:

(Personally delivered) Vb6
Examination by:

Examination by:

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Specimens submitted for examination

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Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge Trimmige State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 KMX P.M." The x t. 49 year to Me time

Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Kerman Talmadge State Captial Washington D C., "postmarked MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."

21090 line

One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadage I am a white..." ending on reverse side "...do something very soon Address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."

- One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on reverse side "...out of danger."
- Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending "...army marine crop."
- One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending AND AND AND ON reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins

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ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sherr Sheriff of Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

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page 2 D-279896 DJ

9 34483

Recorded 5/28/58 PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

LATENT Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

File # 9-34483

Lab. # D-279896 DJ

Examination requested by:

FBI, Washington Field Office Letter 5/26/58

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Date received: 5/26/58

Result of Examination:

(Personally delivered)
Examination by:

Q1 + QGASreturned to WFO by LF

Specimens submitted for examination

- Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge Ql Telandru State Captial Washington D C.," pootmarked "HOLENA GA. MAY 9 1988 MMY D.M."
- Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Q2 Talmadge State Captial Washington D C., " postmarked MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M.
- One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning 03 "Hello Sonator Talmadage I am a white ... ending on reverse side ... do scaething very soon Address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."
- 34483One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young ... " ending on reverse side '...out of danger."
- Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58. beginning "Hollo Senator Talmadge I am a young ... " ending "... army marine crop." I ENCL
- One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning Q6"Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending END RPT. on reverse side "... this address Bennie James Riggins ATLANTA/Molena Ge B/2." Page 1 Continued next page

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

page 2 D-279896 DJ

9 34483

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

recorded 6/6/58 ebk

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAS FILE....

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;

Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;

Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

File #

Lab. # D-280279 DJ

Exercise , Los Angeles (9-2142) 5/27/58

Examination requested:

Document

Date received:

\$/29/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

16.27

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Retails blass

Specimens submitted for examination

- QT Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter CBS Hollywood, Galifornia," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
 MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in upper left-hand corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Monday May 12, 1958 this is...," ending on reverse side "....don't fool around."

9 34483 6-13-38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

recorded 6/6/58

ebic

Laboratory Work Sheet

File # 9-34483

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM:

Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM:

Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142) 5/27/58

Examination requested:

Examination requested by:

Document

Date received:

5/29/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

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Wo nec. OK from actanta 6/6/58

Specimens submitted for examination

- Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
 MAY 12 1958 FM," bearing writing in upper left-hand corner.
- Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Monday May 12, 1958 this is...," ending on reverse side "...don't fool around."

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47-8- Return Reggins La Calibornia Dear J you of wonth Robert part Jor this Dif Riggine Ja. Jang & Jillace you 3448 3446

Recorded 6/10/58 bp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE OPENED ...

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;

ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NI NIXON-VICTIM

SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM

EXTORTION

File # D 280989 Lab. # DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta(9-1299)-Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 6/9/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6 b7C

Leux K1 - 91-8

Specimens submitted for examination

PAYABLE TO SIGNED BY BANK SPECIMEN CHECK # AMOUNT DATE

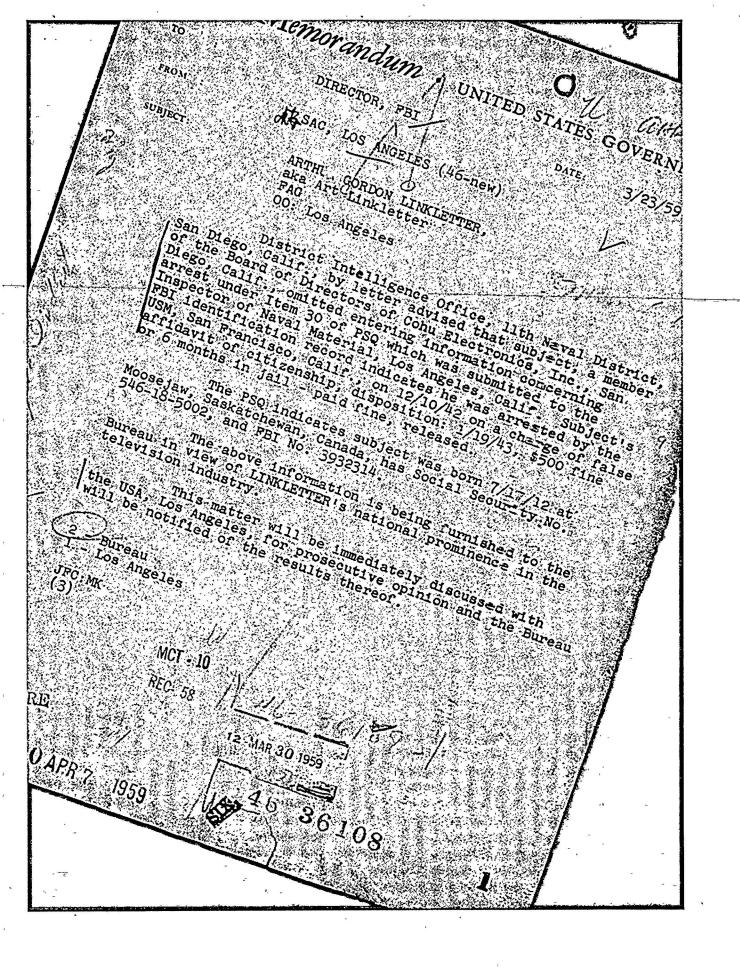
KI Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

34488

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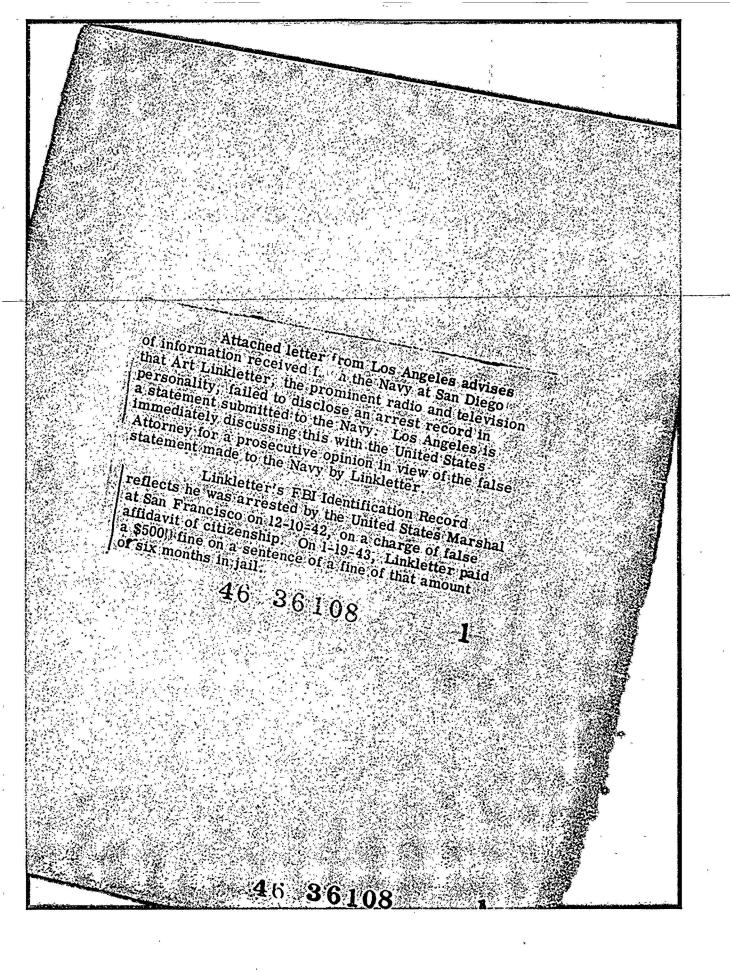
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Director.

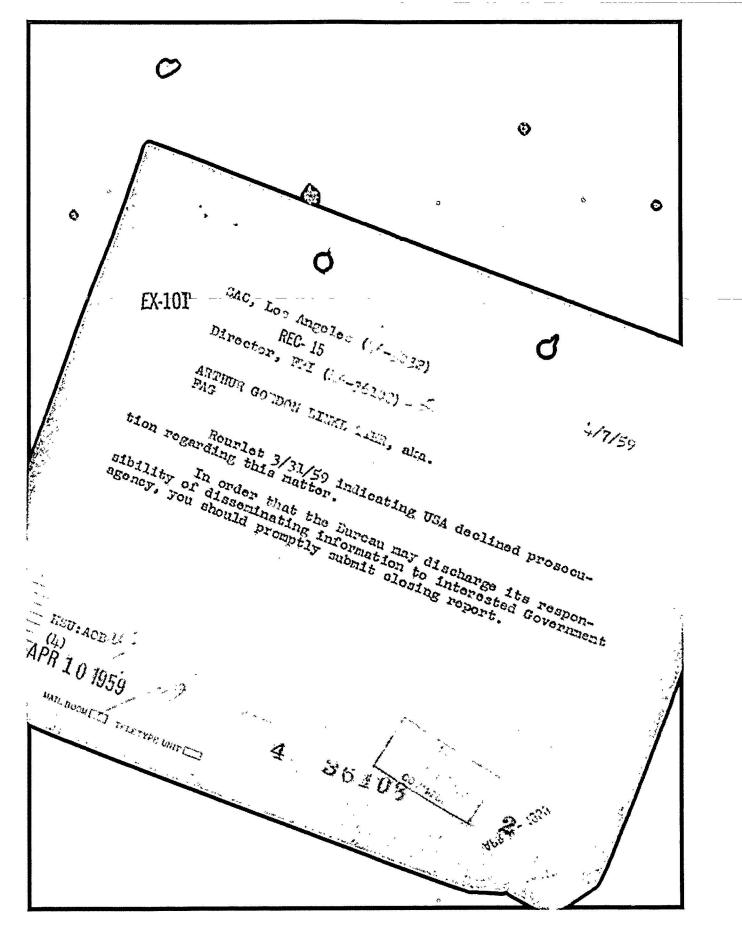
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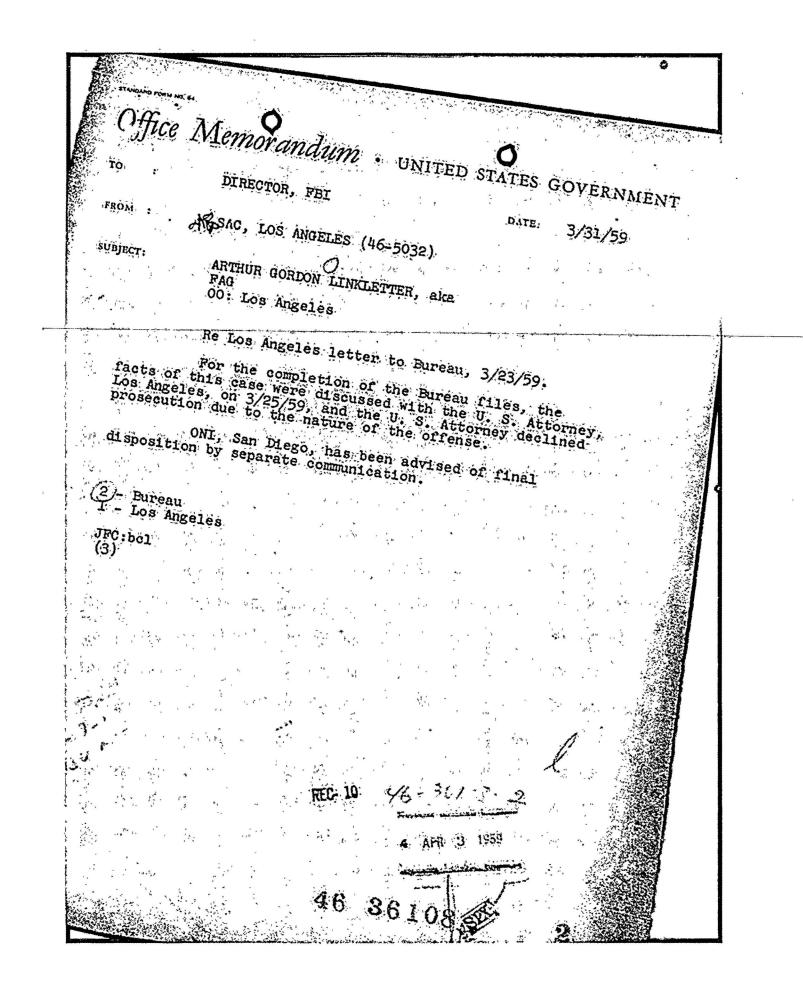
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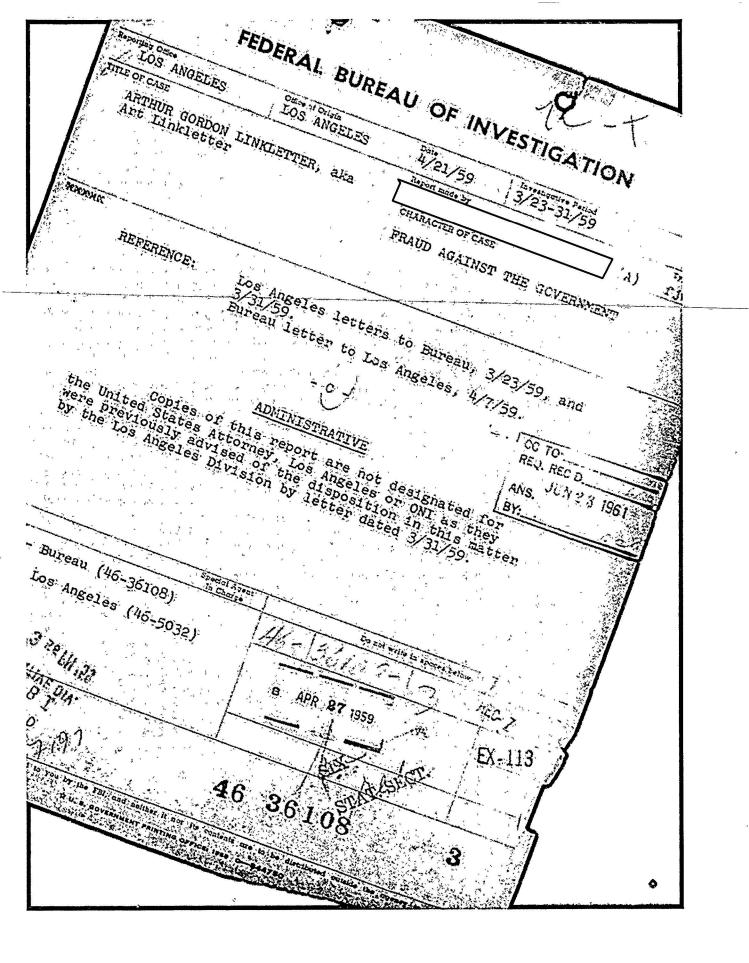
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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR	CHARGE	Corcettion	
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ndicated by ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on date probled this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or cliases and ARE LISTED







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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: Date:

April 21, 1959

A.

Officer Los Angeles, California

File Number

Los Angeles 40450:3

1213-6 4-3010-

Title:

ARTHUR GURDON LINKLETTER

Character:

FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Synopsis:

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLEPTER, aka Art Linkletter, executed a Personnel Jecurity Questionnaire (PSQ) in connection with position as member of Board of Directors of Cohn Electronics, Inc., San Diego, California, which PSQ was directed to Inspector of Naval Materiel, Los Angeles. LINKLETTER, on PSQ, indicated he had no prior arrests. Marshal. San Francisco. on charge of False Affidavit Marshal, San Francisco, on charge of False Afridavit of Citizenship, and received \$500.00 fine or six months and los angeles declined procedured was released. AUSA, Los Angeles, declined prosecution due to nature or the offense.

DEPAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a letter by the los Arseles Division on March 20, 1959 from Captain USN, District Intelligence Officer. lith Naval District, San Dieso, California, Wherein it was indicated that ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka Art Linkletter, had executed a Personnel Security Questionnaire (PSQ) wherein the linkletter, and indicated he had no prior arrests.

dated August 6, 1958, executed by ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER in

46 SOLUG

cument contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FSI, and is a loan to your add

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connection with his position as a member of the Bourd of Directors, Cohu Electronics, Inc., 5725 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, California, which PSQ was directed to the Inspector of Naval Material, 1206 Santee Street, Los Angeles.

It is noted that LTNKLETTER indicated on this PSC that he was born July 1/, 1912 at Moosejaw, Saskarchewan, Canada, entered the United States in 1914 at Lowell, Massachusetts, and was naturalized as a United States citizen in United States District Court, Los Angeles, California, on May 9, 13-7, Certificate No. 6641969.

LINKLETTER, under item No. 29 of this PSQ, indicated that he had no prior arrests.

The following is the FBI Identification Record for ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, FBI No. 3932314, as submitted by the FBI Identification Division under date of October 21, 1958:

USM, San Arthur 12/10/42 false 1/19/43, Francisco, Linkletter affidavit \$500 fine of 6 mos. citizenship in jail; paid fine released ASR, War Arthur pub. rel. Gordon ESR. Linkletter 11/8/43 #109-KAS PD, Richmond, Arthur admin. Calif. Gordon asst. F. Linkletter #109-PRR-1 OSI and NS Arthur alien reg. Calif. Linkletter #109-PRR-1 OSI and NS Arthur alien reg. Linkletter #5945358	Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number		Charge	Disposition
ASF, War Arthur pub. rel. Dept. Gordon mgr. Linkletter 11/8/43 #109-KAS PD, Richmond; Arthur admin. Calif. Gordon asst. F. Linkletter 1/31/44 #109-PRR-1 OSI and NS Arthur alien reg. Los Angeles, Gordon 1/22/43 Calif. Linkletter #5045358	Francisco,	Linkletter		affidavit of	\$500 fine or 6 mos.
Dept. Gordon mgr. Linkletter 11/8/43 #109-KAS PD, Richmond, Arthur admin. Calif. Gordon asst. F. Linkletter 1/31/44 #109-PRR-1 OSI and NS Arthur alien reg. Los Angeles, Gordon 1/22/43 Calif. Hinkletter #5945358	(iv)		4		
Calif. Gordon asst. F. Linkletter 1/31/44 #109-PRR-1 OSI and NS Arthur alien res. Los Angeles, Gordon 1/22/43 Calif. Linkletter		Gordon Linkletter	rsr.		
Los Angeles, Gordon 1/22/43 Calif. Linkletter #5045358.		Gordon Linkletter	asst. P.		
46.36108	Los Angeles,	Gordon	1/22/43		

United States Attorney THOMAS R. SHERIDAN on March 25, 1000-by-SAA at which time Mr. SHERIDAN -by SAA declined prosecution due to the nature of the offense.

LINKLETTER, aka, as obtained from his PSQ and FEL Identification.

Name

Sex Race

Citizenship

Date of Birth Place of Birth

Height Weight Hair Eyes Marital Status Social Security No. FBI No. Military Service Residence

Wife Sons

Daughters

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER aka Art Linkletter

Male White

American (Naturalized USDC, Los Angeles, May 9, 1947) July 17, 1912 Moosejaw Saskatchewan,

Canada 6'1" 215 1bs.

Blond Blue

Married 546-18-5002 3932314 None

219 South Mapleton Drive, Los Angeles

JACK LINKLETTER; ROBERT LINKLETTER, same address

DIANE LINKLETTER,

36108

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